STARTLING 'N SHOCKING tales

WEIRD

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IT ROSE FROM THE COFFIN - THIRSTY

VAMPIRE

the thing in rags cried

GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN!

A SWARM OF KILLER BEES IN TEAR HIM APART!

IT PAYS TO REMEMBER

Never Kill a CORPSE

WEIRD

DEC. 1978

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BEYOND THE GRAVE

THE CARNIVAL WAS A GLITTERING, SPANGLED WORLD OF FUN AND FROLIC, OF GAY LILTING MUSIC, AND THE INNOCENT LAUGHTER OF CHILDREN. BUT THAT WAS ONLY ON THE SURFACE. BEHIND THE SCENES EVIL LURKED AND WAITED. NOT MAN-MADE EVIL, ALONE, BUT DREAD CREATURES THAT DWELLED IN THE HORRIBLE, HOVERING SPACES BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

SEE THE GREATEST SHOW ON THE MIDWAY, FOLKS! IT'LL MAKE YOU SHIVER AND SHAKE, HAVE NIGHTMARES FOR WEEKS! LIFE-SIZE FIGURES OF DENIZENS OF THE WORLD OF THE UNDEAD! JUST TO LOOK AT THEM WILL TURN YOUR BLOOD TO ICE WATER!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, INSIDE THE TENT, AS THE HORROR SHOW OPENED...
THESE ARE NOT CREATURES OF THE IMAGINATION, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THEY ARE EXACT IMAGES OF SUB-HUMAN CRIMINALS CAUGHT AND EXECUTED FOR DEEDS SO GHASTLY THEY DEFY DESCRIPTION! BUT DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE ONLY WAX DUMMIES! THEY CAN'T HURT YOU- OR CAN THEY?
BRR! IF THEY'RE ANY WORSE THAN THAT UGLY GNOME, I DON'T KNOW IF I COULD STAND IT!
AS THE DART PIERCED THE WAX FIGURE AN INHUMAN CRY OF PAIN BROKE THROUGH THE STUNNED SILENCE OF THE CROWD!
AARGH! THAT'S A LOT OF TURTLE FEATHERS! HERE'S WHAT I THINK OF YOUR DUMB OLD SHOW!
HEY! THAT CRAZY KID'S SHOOTING A DART AT THE WEREWOLF!
THE HORRIBLE SCREAM AND THE BOYS TERRIFIED STATEMENTS THREW THE AUDIENCE INTO A PANIC. QUICKLY, ZITA DREW THE CURTAIN AND TRIED TO CALM THE CUSTOMERS...
THAT-THAT THING SCREAMED! IT'S ALIVE! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
EASY, FOLKS! I--UH--JUST USED A LITTLE VENTRILOQUISM TO TEACH THAT KID A LESSON! THE WEREWOLF DIDN'T REALLY MAKE THAT NOISE!

NO USE, ZITA! THAT VENTRILOQUISM GAG DIDN'T FOOL THEM! THEY KNEW THAT THE SOUND *DID* COME FROM THE FIGURE OF THE WEREWOLF! REMEMBER, I WARNED YOU THAT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN! WE'D BETTER TAKE A LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN!
IT-- IT'S GONE! THE WEREWOLF'S COME *ALIVE AND* BROKEN FREE OF THE WAX COATING!
IT WAS *NEVER REALLY DEAD!* *NONE* OF THESE CREATURES ARE THEY'RE MERELY IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS, SULLY! SILLY SUPERSTITION! EACH OF THEM WAS EXECUTED FOR A FIENDISH CRIME- AND BURIED! YOU YOURSELF HELPED ME GET THE CORPSES, TREAT THEM WITH A PRESERVATIVE AND COAT THEM WITH WAX, TO MAKE AN EXHIBIT SO REALISTIC IT WOULD SCARE THE HIDES OFF THE RUBES!
YES! AND I TOLD YOU THAT TRICK MIGHT BOOMERANG ON YOU!
THE KIDS DART, PENETRATING THE WAX COATING, SHOCKED THE WEREWOLF OUT OF HIS SPELL OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION! THE SAME THING CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME TO THE REST OF YOUR PETS, ZITA! YOU'D BETTER DESTROY THEM! THERE IS A WAY...
GET RID OF MY EXHIBIT? STOP TALKING LIKE A FOOL, SULLY! HOW ELSE COULD I MAKE SO MUCH MONEY?

MARRY ME, ZITA! GIVE UP THE SHOW! I'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS SAVED UP! I--I CAN SUPPORT YOU!
WHAT!
MARRY AN UGLY, TWISTED LITTLE GNOME LIKE YOU? HA! HA! THAT'S THE FUNNIEST THING I'VE HEARD IN AGES, SULLY!
SEE YOU LATER, MY HIDEOUS LITTLE ROMEO!
YES, BUT YOU WON'T BE LAUGHING THEN! YOU DON'T KNOW THAT THE WERE-WOLF IS PART OF MY PLAN TO MAKE YOU MARRY ME!
GROWRR!
MEANWHILE, A GREAT SHAGGY GRAY FIGURE, PROWLED AROUND THE EDGE OF THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS, HUNTING OUT ITS PREY...
...THE BOY WHO HAD PIERCED IT WITH A BLOW-GUN DART!
IT... IT'S THE WEREWOLF! HE'S AFTER ME! HELP!
THAT CRY FOR HELP MUST'VE BEEN THE KID! HE... HE'S HURT BADLY!
LOOK! IT'S THE WEREWOLF FROM ZITAS HORROR SHOW!
HE'S DEAD! THE POOR KID! THAT BEAST RIPPED HIM TO PIECES! HIS THROAT... UGH!

AS NEWS OF THE BRUTAL SLAYING SPREAD, ARMED MOBS FORMED TO BEAT THROUGH THE THICK WOODS SURROUNDING THE CARNIVAL, HUNTING DOWN THE KILLER WEREWOLF!
BUT THE BEAST HAD ELUDED THE POSSE... TERRIFIED BY THE HUE AND CRY OF THE MOB HUNTING IT THE WEREWOLF RETURNED TO ZITA'S SIDE SHOW TENT...
IT'S COME BACK, SULLY! DO SOMETHING! IT... IT'LL KILL US!
DON'T BE AFRAID! IT'S COME BACK TO HIDE! IT WANTS US TO HELP IT! SOMETHING MUST HAVE HAPPENED! I'D BETTER GO FIND OUT!
SULLY LEFT... THEN RETURNED A FEW MINUTES LATER WITH NEWS OF THE SLAYING...
THERE'S THE DEVIL TO PAY, ZITA! THE WERE-WOLF KILLED A YOUNG BOY! HALF THE TOWN'S OUT HUNTING FOR THE BEAST! THAT'S WHY IT CAME BACK HERE, THE ONLY PLACE WHERE IT THOUGHT IT WOULD BE SAFE!
LOOK, SULLY! IT WANTS ME TO HELP IT! IT'S CRAWLING AT MY FEET LIKE A SLAVE BEFORE IT'S MASTER! I CAN MAKE IT OBEY MY WILL!
THEN SULLY MADE A STRANGE CONFESSION...
IT WASN'T THE KIDS DART THAT AWAKENED THE WEREWOLF FROM ITS SPELL, ZITA! I HAD ALREADY ALREADY ANIMATED IT WITH A SHOT OF SPECIAL SERUM I'VE BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH. ONCE INJECTED ALL THESE CREATURES OF THE UNDEAD NEED IS SOME KIND OF PAIN-SHOCK TO JOLT THEM FULLY AWAKE! I WAS GOING TO SURPRISE YOU WITH A DEMON-STRATION AFTER TONIGHTS SHOW, BUT THE KID WITH THE DART BEAT ME TO IT!

THESE OTHERS HAVE ALL BEEN INJECTED TOO! THEY'RE JUST WAITING FOR THEIR FINAL RELEASE! ONE JAB FROM THIS EMPTY HYPO NEEDLE, ZITA, AND THEY'LL ALL BREAK LOOSE TO MAIM AND MURDER JUST LIKE THE WEREWOLF DID!
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING WITH ALL THOSE DRUGS!
NOW YOU WON'T LAUGH AT ME, LOVELY, CRUEL ZITA! NOW, IF YOU REFUSE TO MARRY ME, I'LL TURN LOOSE THE REST OF YOUR UNDEAD BEAST-PEOPLE AND YOU WILL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR MURDEROUS MARAUDING!
ANGERED BY SULLY'S THREATENING TONE TOWARD ZITA, THE WEREWOLF MOVED TO ATTACK HIM. ONLY ZITA'S QUICKNESS RESTRAINED THE CREATURE!
CAREFUL, SULLY! HE CONSIDERS ME HIS BOSS! IF YOU RELEASE THE OTHERS, THEY TOO WILL BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME POWER I HAVE OVER HIM!
SUDDENLY WITH A VICIOUS LUNGE THE WEREWOLF BROKE LOOSE!
I--I CAN'T HOLD HIM!
GROWRR
YOU-- YOU'VE KILLED SULLY! BACK, YOU--YOU INHUMAN BEAST!
AT THAT MOMENT...
THE EXHIBITION THAT FEATURES A WAX FIGURE OF A WEREWOLF IS RIGHT DOWN THERE AT THE END OF THE MIDWAY!
I HEARD RUMORS THAT IT ISN'T A DUMMY AT ALL! IT'S ALIVE LET'S GET THE MURDERING BEAST!

THEY'VE FIGURED THE CONNECTION BETWEEN MY SHOW AND THE MURDER OF THE KID! BUT IF I GET RID OF THE EVIDENCE THEY CAN'T PROVE ANYTHING!
SWIFTLY ZITA GRABBED UP SULLY'S HYPO NEEDLE AND JABBED THE REST OF THE WAX FIGURES, FREEING THEM FROM THEIR STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
GO! HIDE OUT IN THE WOODS TILL I CALL YOU BACK!
AS THE LEADERS OF THE ANGRY MOB BURST INTO HER TENT ZITA BLAMED IT ALL ON SULLY...
...AFTER HE FREED THEM, THEY ATTACKED HIM AND ESCAPED!
WITH ALL OF THEM LOOSE THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE IS IN DANGER! WE'D BETTER ROUND THEM UP FAST!
IF THERE ARE ANY MORE KILLINGS, ZITA ZIMMER, THE LAW WILL HOLD YOU RESPONSIBLE FOR HARBORING THESE-- THESE INHUMAN BRUTES!
MEANWHILE AT A FARM NEAR THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS, THE HORROR CREATURES MADE THEIR FIRST PACK ATTACK!
WITH THEIR SAVAGE DEED DONE, THE QUARTET OF HALF-HUMAN BEASTS MOVED ON TO HUNT DOWN OTHER VICTIMS!

DURING THE NEXT FEW HOURS, STARKTER STRUCK THE WHOLE COUNTRYSIDE AS THE HORROR CREATURES MADE ATTACK AFTER BRUTAL ATTACK!
SEVERAL TIMES THE POSSE TRACKED DOWN THE BEASTS AND FIRED UPON THEM... WITH NO EFFECT!
LATER, WHEN THE POSSE RETURNED TO THE CARNIVAL GROUNDS, ZITA GREATED THEM WITH A PROPOSITION!
BULLETS OR BUCKSHOT CAN'T KILL THEM ONLY HANGING BY A SNAKE-GRASS NOOSE CAN PERMANENTLY STOP THE UNDEAD!
YES, I CAN HELP YOU CAPTURE ALL THESE UNDEAD BRUTES-BUT ONLY FOR A FEE OF $25,000!
I'M A WEALTHY MAN! IF THE REST OF THE TOWN WON'T CHIP IN TO PAY YOU, I'LL DO IT ALONE! THOSE BEASTS MUST BE CAUGHT AND DESTROYED NO MATTER WHAT THE COST!
WHAT KIND OF A WOMAN IS SHE TO DEMAND BLOOD MONEY LIKE THAT? YOU'D THINK SHE'D BE GLAD TO HELP SAVE HER FELLOW HUMANS FROM THE PREDATORY UNDEAD FOR NOTHING!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THEY THINK! THIS IS MY CHANCE TO GET RICH! THEY ARE LUCKY I'M NOT CHARGING THEM TWICE AS MUCH!
THE UNDEAD BEASTS WERE FINALLY CORNERED BY THE MOB, COWED BY THE COMMANDS OF THEIR MISTRESS!
KEEP THEM IN CONTROL, ZITA, WHILE WE LASSO THEM WITH THESE SNAKEGRASS NOOSES!
DON'T WORRY! THEY OBEY MY EVERY COMMAND! COME HERE YOU SKULKING BEASTS!
BUT SUDDENLY SUSPICIOUS, ANGERED BY THE SHOUTING MOB AND THE BLAZING TORCHES, THE FEROCIOUS UNDEAD REALIZED THAT THEIR MISTRESS HAD BETRAYED THEM AND...
THE POSSE WAS UNABLE TO SAVE ZITA, BUT WHILE SHE WAS BEING ATTACKED, THE UNDEAD CREATURES WERE NOOSED WITH THE DREADED SNAKE-GRASS, AND QUICKLY STRUNG UP OVER THE NEAREST STOUT LIMB, THEIR TORTURED BODIES QUIETED FOREVER!
STOP THEM! THEY'VE TURNED ON ME! AAARGH!
IT'S A SHAME A WOMAN SO BEAUTIFUL COULD BE SO EVIL! BUT SHE SUFFERED THE FATE OF ALL WHO MEDDLE WITH CREATURES FROM THE BEYOND!
THE END

GIVE ME BACK MY BRAIN

IN THE DARK OF NIGHT A PHONE RANG EERILY, CALLING DR. MORRIS FISHER TO THE MOST TERRIBLE ADVENTURE OF HIS CARRER! THE NEXT FEW HOURS WERE TO PLUNGE HIM INTO THE MIDST OF EVENTS SO HORRIBLE THAT NO MAN COULD FACE THEM AND KEEP HIS SANITY!...OR HIS LIFE! LISTEN NOW TO THE BELL AS IT SOUNDS A **KNELL AT MIDNIGHT!**

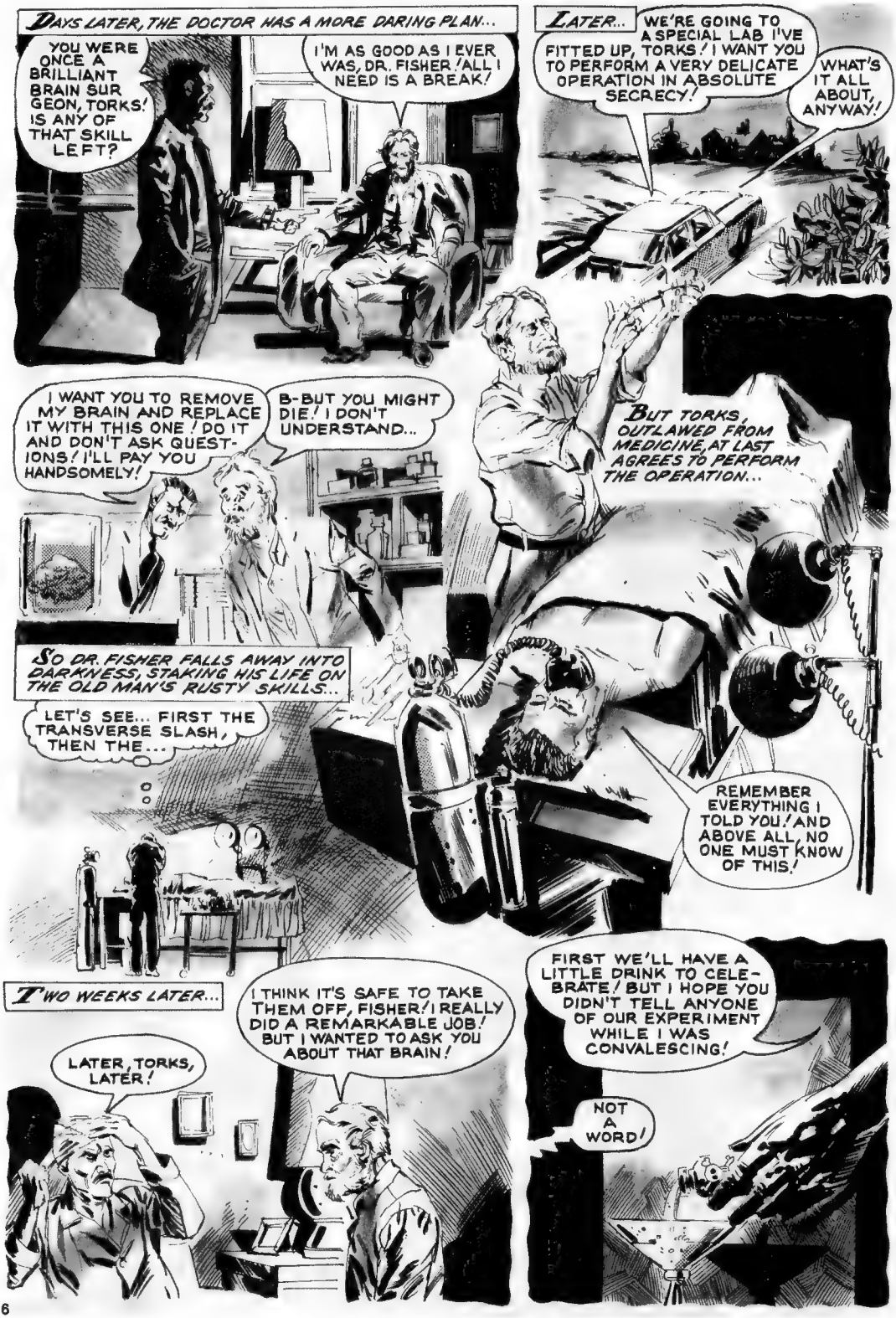
MIDNIGHT! THE PHONE RINGS ON THE BEDSIDE TABLE OF DOCTOR FISHER...

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS CALL...

SOON...
SO THE OLD MAN IS DYING AT LAST, IS HE? HE MUST BE NINETY! WORTH MILLIONS, AND WITH ONE OF THE KEENEST BRAINS I'VE EVER SEEN!
HOW IS HE NOW, TABU?
YOU MUST HURRY, DOCTOR! HIS ORDERS ARE THAT YOU GO TO HIM AT ONCE!
INSTANTLY THE DOCTOR SENSES SOMETHING UNCANNY ABOUT THE DEATH ROOM...
HURRY, FISHER! I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! YOU MUST LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT I TELL YOU... AND YOU MUST PROMISE TO OBEY ME!
OF COURSE, SIR! ANYTHING I CAN DO!
THEY GET ODD IDEAS WHEN THEY'RE DYING!
THERE IS NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS! NOW... WHEN I DIE, YOU MUST TAKE OUT MY BRAIN AT ONCE! PUT IT IN A CASKET THAT TABU WILL GIVE YOU! MY BRAIN IS NOT REALLY MINE AT ALL! I BORROWED IT, AND YOU MUST RETURN IT! DO YOU PROMISE TO DO THIS? DO YOU?
THE DOCTOR, STAGGERED BY THE WEIRD REQUEST, MAKES A PROMISE...
TABU WILL EXPLAIN ALL AFTER I'M DEAD! BUT YOU MUST NOT BREAK YOUR WORD!
I-I PROMISE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, SIR, BUT I'LL DO IT! I'LL TAKE OUT YOUR BRAIN!
MINUTES LATER...
HE'S GONE, TABU! MIGHT AS WELL CLOSE HIS EYES! THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
HE WAS A GREAT AND GOOD MAN! I, TABU, WILL MAKE SURE HIS LAST WISHES ARE CARRIED OUT!

A CRUDE OPERATING TABLE IS RIGGED...
NO TIME TO WASTE! WHILE I'M SAWING THE SKULL OPEN, YOU CAN BE EXPLAINING!
THE STORY BEGINS IN EGYPT, FIVE THOUSAND YEARS AGO! THERE WAS A HIGH PRIEST CALLED VISHNU!
SEEMS I'VE HEARD THAT NAME! DIDN'T THEY MAKE A GOD OF HIM AFTER HE DIED?
CORRECT, BUT THEY DID MORE... BEFORE HE WAS ENTOMBED, THEY REMOVED HIS BRAIN AND PRESERVED IT! FOR SOME STRANGE REASON THE BRAIN DID NOT DIE!
NOW WAIT A MINUTE, TABU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ME...
VISHNU WAS VERY ANGRY, BUT HE PERMITTED MR. MAXMILIAN TO KEEP HIS BRAIN PROVIDED IT WAS USED FOR GOOD PURPOSES... AND ONLY IF IT WAS RETURNED AFTER MR. MAXMILIANS DEATH!
BUT I AM, SIR! THIS IS THE BRAIN OF VISHNU! MR. MAXMILIAN DISCOVERED IT IN A TOMB SOME SIXTY YEARS AGO! IT WAS STILL ALIVE! HE DARED TO TAKE IT AND HAVE IT PUT INTO HIS OWN SKULL! LATER HE HAD A DREAM IN WHICH VISHNU CAME TO HIM!
INCREDIBLE!
OF ALL THE CRAZY YARNS... BUT SOMEHOW I BELIEVE IT! AND IF IT IS TRUE, WHAT A CHANCE FOR ME! A BRAIN... ALIVE AFTER FIVE THOUSAND YEARS... I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO GET TO MY LAB AND LOOK AT IT!
LATER...
...NOW IT MUST GO BACK TO ITS TOMB IN EGYPT! YOU HAVE BEEN CHOSEN, SIR, BECAUSE ONLY A DOCTOR COULD REMOVE THE BRAIN WITHOUT HARMING IT!

FASCINATED BY THE BRAIN, THE DOCTOR WORKS UNTIL DAWN...
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT, THE BRAIN IS EXTREMELY OLD! THE TISSUE SHOWS THAT CLEARLY! THE DEGREE OF CONVOLUTION SHOWS THAT IT IS HIGHLY DEVELOPED AND COMPLICATED!
NO WONDER MAXMILIAN WAS SO SUCCESSFUL! WHO WOULDN'T BE WITH A BRAIN LIKE THIS! MARVELOUS, TOO, HOW IT CONTINUES TO LIVE! PITY TO PUT IT IN SOME DECAYING TOMB!
LATER...
YOU CANNOT RETURN THE BRAIN?
NO! I'M MUCH TOO BUSY! IF YOU WANT TO RETURN THE BRAIN, HERE IT IS!
NEXT DAY THE DOCTOR VISITS HIS OLD MEDICAL SCHOOL...
HELLO, DEAN BAXTER! I WONDER IF YOU COULD DO ME A FAVOR? I NEED A BRAIN... JUST ANY OLD BRAIN WILL DO!
I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT FOR OUR MOST BRILLIANT GRADUATE!
BUT THAT NIGHT THE DOCTOR CHUCKLES AT HIS OWN CLEVERNESS!
VERY NEAT! TABU NEVER GUESSED THAT I SWITCHED THE BRAINS! NOW I CAN STUDY VISHNU'S BRAIN TO MY HEARTS CONTENT!
YOU HAVE BROKEN FAITH, BUT TABU WILL NOT! I WILL RETURN THE BRAIN IN YOUR STEAD! GOOD BYE, DR FISHER!
GOODBYE, TABU! GOOD LUCK ON YOUR TRIP!


DAYS LATER, THE DOCTOR HAS A MORE DARING PLAN...
YOU WERE ONCE A BRILLIANT BRAIN SUR GEON, TORKS! IS ANY OF THAT SKILL LEFT?
I'M AS GOOD AS I EVER WAS, DR. FISHER! ALL I NEED IS A BREAK!
LATER...
WE'RE GOING TO A SPECIAL LAB I'VE FITTED UP, TORKS! I WANT YOU TO PERFORM A VERY DELICATE OPERATION IN ABSOLUTE SECRECY!
WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT, ANYWAY!
I WANT YOU TO REMOVE MY BRAIN AND REPLACE IT WITH THIS ONE! DO IT AND DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! I'LL PAY YOU HANDSOMELY!
B-BUT YOU MIGHT DIE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
BUT TORKS, OUTLAWED FROM MEDICINE, AT LAST AGREES TO PERFORM THE OPERATION...
SO DR. FISHER FALLS AWAY INTO DARKNESS, STAKING HIS LIFE ON THE OLD MAN'S RUSTY SKILLS...
LET'S SEE... FIRST THE TRANSVERSE SLASH, THEN THE...
REMEMBER EVERYTHING I TOLD YOU! AND ABOVE ALL, NO ONE MUST KNOW OF THIS!
TWO WEEKS LATER...
I THINK IT'S SAFE TO TAKE THEM OFF, FISHER! I REALLY DID A REMARKABLE JOB! BUT I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT THAT BRAIN!
LATER, TORKS, LATER!
FIRST WE'LL HAVE A LITTLE DRINK TO CELEBRATE! BUT I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TELL ANYONE OF OUR EXPERIMENT WHILE I WAS CONVALESCING!
NOT A WORD!

MEANTIME TABU MAKES THE LONG JOURNEY TO EGYPT...
AT LAST I CAN RETURN THE BRAIN TO VISHNU!
THEN BOTH OF US CAN REST IN PEACE!
THIS MUST BE THE TOMB OF VISHNU! ACCORDING TO MY INSTRUCTIONS I MUST PLACE THE CASKET WITH THE BRAIN ON THE STONE COFFIN, THEN SAY A PRAYER...
...OF THANKS FOR THE USE OF THE BRAIN!
I, TABU, SERVANT OF MAXMILIAN, PAY HOMAGE TO VISHNU, THE MOST VENERABLE AND WISE!
SUDDENLY...
L-LIGHTNING! THE TOMB IS S-SHATTERED! VISHNU MUST BE ANGRY WITH ME!

A SPECTRAL FIGURE LOOMS FROM THE COFFIN...
FOOL! CURSED MORTAL! HOW DARE YOU OFFER ME THE BRAIN OF ANOTHER?
LIAR! IT IS THE BRAIN OF A MADMAN, A CRIMINAL, TAKEN FROM A NAMELESS BODY! DIE NOW!
AAARGEE
ANOTHER? I DO NOT UNDERSTAND! IT IS YOUR BRAIN, VISHNU! I RETURN IT AS MY MASTER BADE ME!
THAT NIGHT HE MAKES A BRILLIANT SPEECH BEFORE A LEARNED SOCIETY...
NOW IN CLOSING LET ME QUOTE FROM THE GREEK EPICTETUS...
MARVELOUS! ONE WOULD ALMOST THINK HE WAS THERE!
LATER...
I WAS EXCEPTIONAL TONIGHT!...AND WHY NOT? IN MY SKULL IS A BRAIN FIVE THOUSAND YEARS OLD!
MEANWHILE, THE DOCTOR PROSPERS...
EVERYTHING IS GOING MY WAY! FAME AND FORTUNE IS MINE!

AS HE REACHES HOME...
GOOD EVENING, SIR! THERE IS A GENTLEMAN WAITING IN THE STUDY! A PATIENT, I BELIEVE!
YOU KNOW I NO LONGER SEE PATIENTS!
I'VE GIVEN UP ORDINARY PRACTICE, HOWEVER...
BUT THIS PATIENT IS DIFFERENT...
YOU WANTED TO SEE ME? A HEAD WOUND OF SOME KIND?
YES, DOCTOR, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!
AS THE LAST BANDAGE FALLS AWAY...
NOW, DOCTOR, I WANT MY BRAIN!
EEEEEEEE

YOU FOOLED TABU, DOCTOR, BUT NOT VISHNU! I HAVE COME ALL THE WAY FROM EGYPT TO GET MY BRAIN!
N-NO! Y-YOU CAN'T! I HAVE THE BRAIN IN MY SKULL!
SOMETHING GLITTERS CRUELLY IN THE BONY HANDS OF VISHNU...
NO- NOT THAT! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO ME!
AHEEEEEEE-
YOU ARE WRONG AGAIN, DOCTOR! VISHNU CAN DO IT! NOW GIVE IT TO ME!
AT LAST! AND IT SEEMS TO BE UNHARMED WHICH (CHUCKLE) IS MORE THAN I CAN SAY FOR YOU, DOCTOR!
LATER A STARK AND TERRIBLE FIGURE IS SILHOUETTED AGAINST THE NIGHT SKY...
NOW VISHNU CAN RETURN TO HIS TOMB IN PEACE!
BEHIND, IN A SILENT HOUSE, IS ALL THAT IS LEFT OF DR. MORRIS FISHER! LIKE MANY BEFORE HIM, HE LEARNED KNOWLEDGE MUST BE EARNED! IT CANNOT BE STOLEN...
THE END

WHAT IS IT THAT COMES OUT OF THE NIGHT LIKE SOME APPALLING CREATURE OF HELL AND DEVOURS THE BODY AS IT DERANGES THE MIND ?? WHAT IS THIS MONSTROUS CREATION...

The FLESH EATERS!

LATE ONE EVENING, IN THE FARNLEY EXPERIMENTAL LABORATORIES, TWO BACTERIOLOGISTS ARE FEVERISHLY ENGAGED IN STUDYING A **RARE** AND **MALIGNANT** SPECIES OF BACTERIA...

THEY'RE HORRIBLE LITTLE MONSTERS, BARTLETT!!
NONSENSE, MY FRIEND, THEY ARE BEAUTIFUL!

HOW EAGER THEY ARE TO DESTROY WHATEVER LIES IN THEIR PATH!! I AM STRANGELY DRAWN TO THEM!
AND I'M SORRY WE EVER STARTED THIS EXPERIMENT!

I SAY WE SHOULD DESTROY THEM... NOW-- BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!! WHO KNOWS WHAT FOULNESS WE MIGHT HAVE UNLEASHED!
NEVER! I'LL NEVER LET YOU TOUCH THEM! I'LL KILL YOU FIRST!

AS BARTLETT SHOUTS HIS ANGER, THE WORD "KILL" STRIKES HIS TWISTED BRAIN LIKE A FLASH OF LIGHTNING!
WHAT IF FISK SHOULD DIE? THE REWARDS OF OUR DISCOVERY COULD BE MINE ALONE--AND MY CREATURES WOULD BE FREE OF HIS HATRED!!

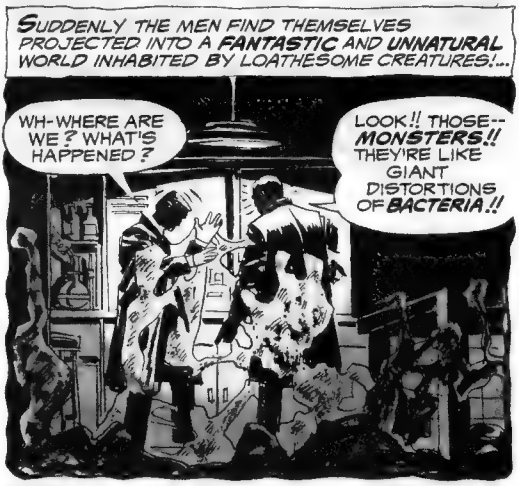
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, DEATH RISES FROM HIS FESTERING GRAVE, AS BARTLETT PREPARES TO STRIKE WITH VIOLENT FURY!...
UGH-H-H!!! THEY SQUIRM ABOUT LIKE DAMNED SOULS!!
GAZE YOUR LAST UPON THEM! YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE!

WH--?
AND NOW, DIE, MY COLLEAGUE!

GIVE ME THAT KNIFE! YOU'RE INSANE!!
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY THEM!! I WON'T!!
CRASH

AS THEY GRAPPLED WIDLY IN THE DARKNESS THEY CRASHED AGAINST THE MICROSCOPE, SENDING THE FETID AND SLIMY MASS OF BACTERIA TOPPLING UPON THEM!...
THE BACTERIA!! YAARGH-H-H!
AAAH-H-H-H!!

IT'S BEGINNING TO SPREAD! WHAT CAN WE D... AAGH-H-H!!
NO! NO!! MMM-B-B-B!


SUDDENLY THE MEN FIND THEMSELVES PROJECTED INTO A FANTASTIC AND UNNATURAL WORLD INHABITED BY LOATHESOME CREATURES!...
WH-WHERE ARE WE? WHAT'S HAPPENED?
LOOK!! THOSE-- MONSTERS!! THEY'RE LIKE GIANT DISTORTIONS OF BACTERIA!!

THEY'RE ENVELOPING US! WHAT CAN WE DO?
RUN! RUN! YAAAAH-H-H!!

WAIT!! WE CREATED THEM AND SO WE ARE THEIR MASTERS!! THEY WILL LISTEN TO ME!!
BUT THEY'RE ALMOST UPON US!

HIS FACE LIT WITH THE GLOW OF MADNESS, BARTLETT ATTEMPTS TO PIERCE THE DIM CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SPREADING DEMONS!...
LISTEN TO ME!! I GAVE YOU LIFE AND I CAN TAKE IT AWAY! OBEY ME!! I ORDER YOU TO...

KILL HIM!!
NO! NO!!

SWIFTLY, RELENTLESSLY, THE PESTILENT CREATURES DEVOUR THE MAN WHO HELPED TO CREATE THEM!...
WELL DONE, MY FRIENDS, WELL DONE!! YOU SHALL OBEY ME NOW IN EVERYTHING! HA! HA! HA!

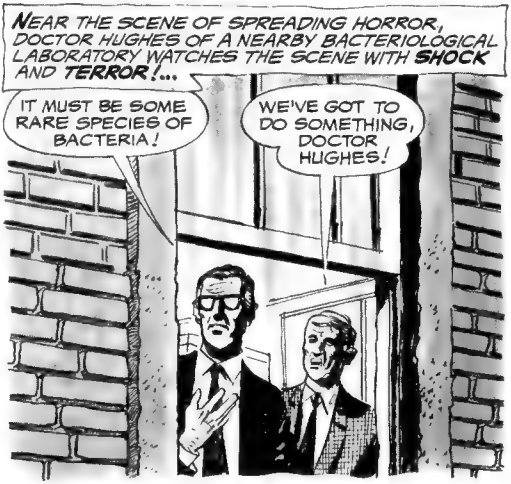
THEY ARE TRULY MINE NOW, MINE!! WITH THEM I COULD DESTROY THE EARTH!! YES... YES...

HIS MIND A TWISTED RUIN, BARTLETT TURNS TO THE HORDE OF BACTERIA AND SPEWS OUT HIS POISONOUS THOUGHTS!...
THIS IS MY COMMAND! SPREAD AND GROW UNTIL EVERYTHING IN SIGHT FALLS PREY TO YOUR SLIMY AND GLUTTONOUS HUNGER!!

LIKE SOME DEMON WITH A THOUSAND ARMS, THE MASS OF BACTERIA BEGINS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE LABORATORY GREEDILY CONSUMING EVERYTHING!...

... ONWARD... AND ONWARD!!...

GOOD LORD!! IT'S AS IF THE BUILDING WERE BEING EATEN!!
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES...


NEAR THE SCENE OF SPREADING HORROR, DOCTOR HUGHES OF A NEARBY BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY WATCHES THE SCENE WITH SHOCK AND TERROR!...
IT MUST BE SOME RARE SPECIES OF BACTERIA!
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING, DOCTOR HUGHES!

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY! WE'VE GOT TO CULTIVATE A SPECIES OF BACTERIA OF AN OPPOSITE TYPE WHICH CAN DESTROY THE OTHER!
THEN LET'S GET AT IT AT ONCE!

IN A FRANTIC RACE WITH DEATH, THE MEN OF SCIENCE LABOR TO PRODUCE THE COUNTER-BACTERIA!
DOCTOR HUGHES-- YOU MUST HURRY! THE SPREADING BACTERIA IS ALMOST TO OUR DOOR!!

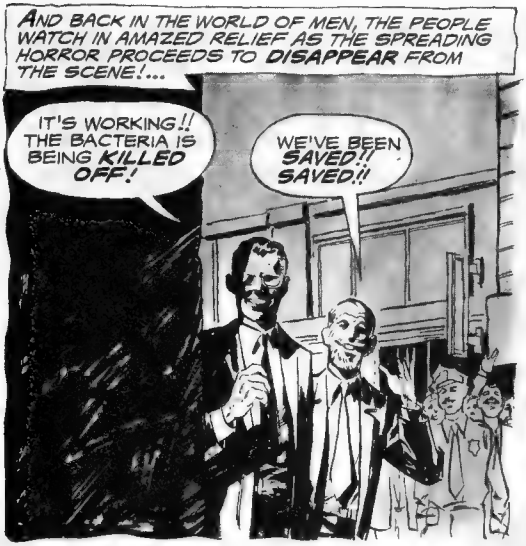
FINALLY...
IF THIS DOESN'T WORK, THEN WE'RE ALL DOOMED!
HURRY! HURRY! THERE'S NO TIME!

THE FUTURE OF MANKIND WILL BE DECIDED NOW!

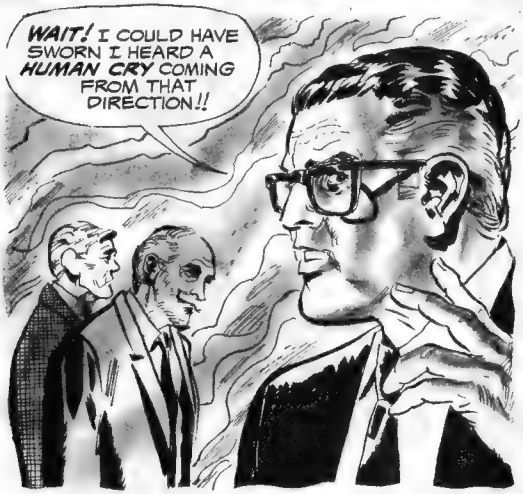
AT THIS MOMENT, THE INSATIBLE FIENDS, LED BY THEIR INSANE MASTER, PAUSE TO STARE AT THE STRANGE FORMS STIRRING IN THE DISTANCE!...
THERE'S SOMETHING COMING TOWARDS US!! THEY LOOK LIKE...NO...

LIKE TWO OPPOSING ARMIES OF REPELLENT DEMONS, THE TWO SPECIES CLASH IN FURIOUS AND DEADLY BATTLE!!...

YOU CAN'T DESTROY THEM--YOU CAN'T!! I CREATED THEM! NO! DON'T!! DON'T!!


AND BACK IN THE WORLD OF MEN, THE PEOPLE WATCH IN AMAZED RELIEF AS THE SPREADING HORROR PROCEEDS TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE SCENE!...
IT'S WORKING!! THE BACTERIA IS BEING KILLED OFF!
WE'VE BEEN SAVED!! SAVED!!

BUT LOOK AT THE HORROR IT HAS LEFT IN IT'S WAKE!
AND WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHO...


WAIT! I COULD HAVE SWORN I HEARD A HUMAN CRY COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION!!

IT SOUNDS LIKE A HUMAN VOICE!! BUT HOW ON EARTH...
DON'T GO NEAR IT! IF IT TOUCHES YOU, YOU'LL DIE!

BUT IT'S ONLY A GOLD WATCH!... AND THERE'S AN INSCRIPTION IN IT...
WHAT DOES IT SAY?

AND AS THE LAST OF THE DREADFUL BACTERIA CRUMBLES TO OBLIVION, THE HEROIC DOCTOR'S VOICE ECHOES OVER A SCENE OF WASTE AND DESOLATION!
"AWARDED TO JAMES BARTLETT, FOR HIS INSPIRED SERVICE TO SCIENCE -- AND TO THE WORLD"!...
MARCHIONNE

VAMPIRES PLAGUE
OHH! DOCTOR - DOCTOR! COME QUICKLY! I THINK HE'S...
EH? GREAT SCOTT! LOOKS LIKE HE'S FAINTED!
HE'S GOING FAST! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO!
IT'S BEYOND ME! I JUST CAN'T DIAGNOSE HIS ILLNESS! I'VE GIVEN HIM SEVERAL TRANSFUSIONS... BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ENOUGH. AND HE REFUSES TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED IN BAVARIA!
THEY WERE A SUPERSTITIOUS LOT, THE INHABITANTS OF THE LITTLE TOWN OF GLEN KARA, SCOTLAND... BELIEVING IN GHOSTS, VAMPIRES AND THE LIKE. BUT SOME WOULD SAY THEY HAD GOOD CAUSE, FOR TO THEM, THE MENACE OF THE MOORS WAS VERY REAL. IT ALL SEEMED TO START ABOUT THE TIME THAT OLD ARON LEGGERT LAY DYING IN LEGGERT CASTLE AT THE EDGE OF THE MOORS, FROM SOME STRANGE DISEASE HE CONTRACTED WHILE VACATIONING IN BAVARIA...
NICK CRISTOBAL /74

NO-- NOT FAINTED... HE'S DEAD!
AHH... TOO BAD. TOO BAD I FEAR WE'LL NEVER KNOW THE CAUSE NOW. HE WASN'T TOO OLD, YOU KNOW, IN HIS EARLY FIFTIES!
HE MUST'VE FALLEN FOR YOU AT FIRST SIGHT... JUST LIKE I DID!
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN LONDON, ARONS NIECE RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM ARONS LAWYER, SILAS HAMMOND...
AND THE NEXT DAY...
OH, GEOFF... HOW DREADFUL! UNCLE ARON'S DEAD! I--I MUST GO TO SCOTLAND AT ONCE FOR THE FUNERAL!
WAIT A MINUTE, DARLING. IT'S A LONG TRIP... AND YOU'LL HAVE TO PACK SOME THINGS. WAIT TILL TOMORROW. I'LL GO ALONG.
IT'S SO ODD. THE TELEGRAM SAID I WAS HIS ONLY HEIR. BUT I'D ONLY SEEN HIM ONCE IN MY LIFE... AND I WAS SO YOUNG THEN THAT I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER WHAT UNCLE ARON LOOKED LIKE!
THANK GOODNESS WE'RE HERE... ALTHOUGH I'M SORRY WE HAD TO MISS THE SERVICES!
ASHES TO ASHES... DUST TO DUST...
EXCUSE ME... I'M MAUREEN LEGGERT. I'M AFRAID I'VE ARRIVED A LITTLE LATE!
YOU'VE COME A LONG WAY. MR. HAMMOND HAS REQUESTED THAT YOU STAY ON AT LEGGERT CASTLE. HE WILL CONTACT YOU THERE SHORTLY!

BUT THAT NIGHT AS MAUREEN AND GEOFF WERE MADE COMFORTABLE AT LEGGERT CASTLE, ALL WAS NOT PEACEFUL AT THE CEMETERY...
EH? WHAT'S THAT? SOUNDS LIKE A PROWLER!
NO! NO! AAARGHH,
HOOT MON! 'TIS SOME GHOULS AT WORK, NO DOUBT! THEY'VE MADE OFF WITH THE CORPSE OF ARON LEGGERT!
THE NEXT MORNING THE LIFELESS BODY OF THE WATCHMAN WAS FOUND!
LOOK AT THE MARKS ON HIS THROAT! 'TWAS A VAMPIRE!
HORRIBLE... HORRIBLE!
I DISLIKE ADDING TO YOUR GRIEF, MISS LEGGERT... BUT I THOUGHT YOU'D WANT TO KNOW. WHOEVER IT WAS KILLED THE WATCHMAN, ALSO DUG UP YOUR UNCLES BODY AND STOLE IT!
HOW TERRIBLE! PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS!

EARLY THAT EVENING A PHONE CALL CAME FOR MAUREEN.
OH, YES MR. HAMMOND...YES, I'VE BEEN AWAITING YOUR CALL!
I'VE BEEN AWAY ON BUSINESS AWHILE. I'LL DROP IN ON YOU A LITTLE LATER THIS EVENING. BY THE WAY IT WAS YOUR UNCLES WISH THAT THE SERVANTS BE DISCHARGED ON HIS DEMISE. WILL YOU PLEASE TAKE CARE OF IT IMMEDIATELY?
MUCH LATER, AFTER THE SERVANTS ARE DISCHARGED, MAUREEN ADMITTED A CALLER...
MISS LEGGERT? I'M SILAS HAMMOND, YOUR UNCLES LAWYER. I'M SORRY I COULDN'T GET HERE SOMETIME DURING THE DAY!
I UNDERSTAND, MR. HAMMOND, YOU MUST BE VERY BUSY!
WAIT! THAT MIRROR! TAKE IT AWAY! WHERE DID IT COME FROM?
WH-- WHY, I NOTICED THAT THERE WERE NO MIRRORS IN THE ENTIRE CASTLE... AND I FOUND THIS ONE IN THE STOREROOM AND DECIDED IT WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT. BUT... WHAT'S WRONG?
ER--UH! EXCUSE ME FOR BECOMING SO EXCITED. YOUR UNCLE DETESTED MIRRORS. HE MADE IT PART OF HIS WILL. NO MIRRORS ARE EVER TO HANG IN LEGGERT CASTLE!
NOW... FOR THE WILL! YOUR UNCLE LEAVES YOU EVERYTHING WITH ONLY TWO CONDITIONS. ONE: HIS ROOM, NOW LOCKED, IS NEVER TO BE ENTERED! AND THE SECOND YOU KNOW. A A MIRROR IS NEVER TO HANG IN LEGGERT CASTLE!
OHH! I'LL REMOVE IT AT ONCE!
IT'S SO STRANGE.. BUT ALL RIGHT!

AS LONG AS YOU ADHERE TO THE CONDITIONS OF THE WILL YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! HERE ARE THE KEYS TO THE CASTLE, EXCEPT FOR THE ONE TO YOUR UNCLES ROOM. HE ORDERED THAT IT BE DESTROYED!
IT'S BEGINNING TO RAIN!
WELL, I MUST BE OFF. I HAVE SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO. GOOD NIGHT!
BUT YOU'LL BE DRENCHED. AT LEAST ALLOW ME TO LEND YOU AN UMBRELLA. IT'S A LONG WALK ACROSS THE MOORS.
BUT AS HAMMOND HEADED DOWN THE WET, MUDDY PATH, MAUREEN NOTED AN ODD PHENOMENON...
THAT'S FUNNY! THE GROUND IS SOFT AND MUDDY FROM THE RAIN, BUT MR. HAMMOND DOESN'T SEEM TO LEAVE ANY FOOTPRINTS!
OH, GEOEF, A STRANGE THING JUST HAPPENED...
FORGET IT, DARLING! NOW'S THE TIME TO CELEBRATE! LET'S SEE HOW UNCLE ARON KEPT HIS WINE CELLAR STOCKED, EH?
DOWN THE WINDING STONE STAIRWAY AND INTO THE WINE CELLAR THEY WENT...
WELL, THE OLD BOY WAS CERTAINLY WELL STOCKED! AND LOOK AT THIS... ANOTHER ROOM. BET HE KEPT HIS BEST STUFF IN HERE! IT'S LOCKED!
MAYBE ONE OF THE KEYS WILL FIT!
OHHH! LOOK!
GREAT SCOTT! THE PLACE LOOKS LIKE A MORGUE!

HE... HE'S NOT DEAD! HE SEEMS TO BE IN A COMA! LOOK AT THE RING HE'S WEARING... THE INITIALS S.H.!
S.H.... SILAS HAMMOND! BUT IF THIS IS SILAS HAMMOND, WHO WAS THE MAN WHO JUST LEFT? OH, GEOFF, WE'D BETTER CALL THE POLICE!
SHORTLY AFTER, THE POLICE RESPONDED TO A FRANTIC PHONE CALL...
WELL I'LL BE... IT'S SILAS HAMMOND!
THEN WHO WAS THE MAN WHO WAS HERE TONIGHT CLAIMING TO BE SILAS HAMMOND?
WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
WELL, I'D SAY HE WAS ABOUT FIVE FEET EIGHT... QUITE BALD. HIS CHEEKS WERE SUNKEN IN AND HE HAD A THIN BONY NOSE. HIS PHYSIQUE WAS AVERAGE!
WHY, THAT'S A DESCRIPTION OF ARON LEGGERT!
WH... WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?
IT MEANS YOUR UNCLE IS NOT DEAD! HE'S A VAMPIRE! SEE THOSE TEETH MARKS ON HAMMONDS THROAT? IT WAS THE SAME WITH THE WATCHMAN!
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! VAMPIRES DON'T EXIST!

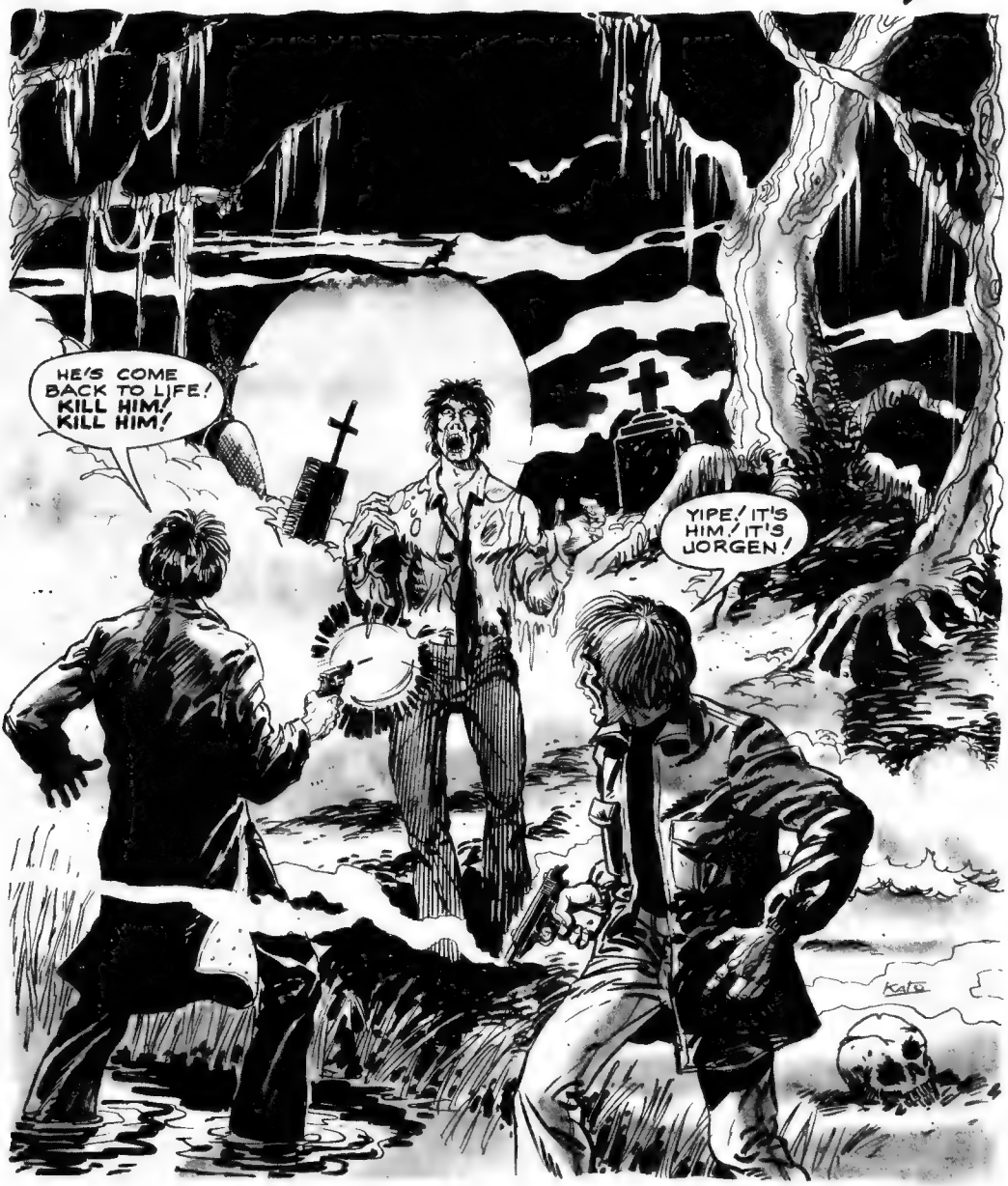
OH, NO? THEN HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THE MURDER OF A YOUNG GIRL ON THE MOORS BEFORE I GOT HERE TONIGHT? SHE HAD THOSE SAME MARA'S ON HER THROAT!
THEN THAT MUST BE WHERE HE'S HIDING OUT! YOU MEN! CALL GLEN KARA! HAVE A SQUAD SEARCH THE MOORS FROM THE OTHER SIDE! WE'LL TRY TO CLOSE IN ON HIM FROM HERE!
ON THE MOORS! WHY THAT'S WHERE HE HEADED WHEN HE LEFT HERE!
DO YOU MIND IF I JOIN YOU? YOU'LL NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET!
FOR SEVERAL HOURS THE SMALL GROUP CAREFULLY COMBED THE MOORS FOR ANY SIGN OF THE MENACE...SUDDENLY A GREAT FLURRY OF WINGS WAS HEARD...
GREAT SCOTT, CHIEF! LOOK UP THERE!
A BAT! IT MUST BE HIM! IT'S HEADING TOWARD THE CASTLE
COME ON... AFTER IT! MAUREEN IS ALL ALONE IN THE CASTLE!
BUT THE HIDEOUS BEATING WINGS SOON OUTDISTANCED THE FUMBLING MEN. AND SOON, AT THE DARKENED CASTLE...

WHAT... WHO'S THERE? YOU! THEN... IT IS TRUE! DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! I-- I'LL SCREAM!
IT WILL AVAIL YOU LITTLE! I LEFT THEM SCAMPERING OVER THE MOORS. BESIDES, IS THAT THE ATTITUDE TO TAKE TOWARDS YOUR UNCLE?
STAY AWAY! HELP! HELP!
HA! HA! HA! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FOR YOU! THEY CAN'T HEAR YOU, MAUREEN!
LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU'VE TRAPPED YOURSELF, MY DEAR!
OHHH!
AHHH! SHE'S FAINTED! 'TWILL MAKE IT MUCH EASIER TO DRAW HER BLOOD! WHAT'S THAT? VOICES!

MAUREEN! IF HE'S HARMED YOU, I'LL...
THERE HE GOES... THROUGH THE WINDOW!
OHHH... GEOFF... IT WAS HORRIBLE!
WAIT! I HAVE IT! ARON'S ROOM... DOWN THE HALL! IT'S GROWING LIGHT... AND VAMPIRES CAN'T EXIST IN DAYLIGHT!
IT'S LOCKED... WE'LL HAVE TO BREAK IT DOWN! UGHH... AGAIN... UGHH! THERE!
THE CHAMBER WAS BARE EXCEPT FOR A LONE COFFIN. QUICKLY GEOFF OPENED IT, AND INSIDE...
THERE'S YOUR VAMPIRE! NOW OPEN THE DRAPES AND LET THE SUN IN!
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT VAMPIRES EXISTED ONLY IN BOOKS... BUT I ALSO HEARD THERE WERE TWO WAYS TO KILL THEM! YOU CAN PIERCE A STAKE THROUGH THE HEART... AND EXPOSURE TO SUNLIGHT! THE LATTER IS MOST EFFECTIVE... BECAUSE IT DESTROYS THEM MOST COMPLETELY!
IT'S INCREDIBLE!
AND TO THINK... JUST A FEW MINUTES AGO HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT NOW, SWEETHEART! AND AFTER TONIGHTS ADVENTURE, YOU CAN LIVE IN THE CASTLE WITHOUT FEAR. THE AFFLICTION YOUR UNCLE CAUGHT IN BAVARIA WHICH MADE A VAMPIRE OF HIM, HAS BEEN DESTROYED WITH THE DISINTEGRATION OF THE CORPSE! IT'S ALL OVER NOW!
THE END

THE MURDER MONSTERS CUT A RUTHLESS PATH THROUGH SOCIETY! BLOOD AND BULLETS WERE THEIR CALLING CARDS AND FEAR WAS AN UNKNOWN WORD--BUT THEN THE HAND OF DESTINY MOVED--AND IN ITS CLUTCHES THE KILLERS SQUIRMED AND SHRIEKED--FOR UNWITTINGLY THEY HAD BEEN LED DOWN...

DEATH'S PATH



IN THE DARK OF NIGHT TWO GRIM FIGURES HOLD THE POWER OF DEATH IN THEIR PISTOL HANDS...
TORPO! RANDY! Y-YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO ME! I'M SORRY I BUCKED THE SYNDICATE! D-DON'T KILL ME-- I'LL GIVE YOU ALL MY DOUGH!
NOW DON'T HE LOOK FUNNY, RANDY?
TSK! TSK! A MORE PITIFUL SIGHT I HAVE NEVER SEEN!
TELL YOU WHAT, JORGEN! YOU RUN LIKE A BUNNY AND MAYBE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO CATCH YOU, HUH?
YOU'LL GIVE ME A BREAK! T-THANKS TORPO, THANKS!
SUDDENLY, AS IF THE FINGER OF DEATH HAD TOUCHED THE KILLER, RANDY SHAKES VIOLENTLY!
HA, HA! NOBODY GETS A BREAK WHEN THERE'S TWO GRAND AT STAKE, JORGEN!
SHORTLY THE EMISSARIES OF SUDDEN DEATH RETURN TO THEIR LAIR...
HUH? WHAT'S EATING YOU?
I- I DON'T KNOW, TORPO! I-IT WAS LIKE A CHILL WENT THROUGH ME! I CAN'T STOP SHAKING!
SNAP OUT OF IT! WE'RE THE TOP TRIGGERMEN IN THE SYNDICATE! REMEMBER THAT!
OH-H! YEAH, TORPO!
THERE'S YOUR TWO GRAND BOYS! NICE JOB! GOT AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR YOU THIS TIME! READY?
WE'RE ALWAYS READY, JOHNNY! GIVE US THE SETUP!

THE GUY'S AN EYE WITNESS TO A SYNDICATE MURDER IN NEW YORK! HE'S GOT TO BE TAKEN-- THIS WEEK! TODAY IF POSSIBLE!
HERE'S HIS PHOTO! NAME'S RUSSEL KENT-- HE'S HOLED UP IN THE MOUNTAINS!
THAT'S FAST WORK, EVEN FOR TWO GRAND!
FOR THE FAST WORK YOU FIGURE TO MAKE FIVE GRAND ON THIS ONE!
YOU'VE GOT A DEAL!
SEVERAL HOURS AFTERWARD, THE DUO OF DEATH HEAD INTO THE MOUNTAINS...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, RANDY? YOU GETTING NERVES OR SOMETHING? TAKE IT EASY AT THE WHEEL!
I DON'T FEEL RIGHT, TORPO! THAT LAST JOB-- IT KINDA GOT UNDER MY SKIN!
FIFTY GUYS YOU AND ME HAVE PUT TO SLEEP-- NOW YOU GET YOURSELF A CASE OF NERVES-- HUH? LOOK OUT!
DOWN, DOWN THROUGH THE MOUNTAIN MIST HURTLES THE MURDERERS CAR AND IT'S COLD BLOODED PASSENGERS...
YEEEEEEEEEEEEEE

SUDDENLY A HUSHED SILENCE FALLS OVER THE MOUNTAINSIDE AND..
T-TORPO, LOOK! WE GOT NO BROKEN BONES OR NOTHIN'! AND THE CAR--THERE'S NOT A DENT IN IT!
YEAH! IT'S ONE OF THOSE FREAK ACCIDENTS!
ONCE AGAIN THE MEN WHO LIVE AT MURDER PROCEED UP THE MOUNTAIN---
IMAGINE THAT! WE DROP A HUNDRED FEET AND DON'T GET SCRATCHED!
SURE! LIKE I SAID--A FREAK ACCIDENT! WE GOT CHARMED LIVES, RANDY! HA, HA! TOO BAD OUR CUSTOMERS CAN'T SAY THE SAME THING!
UP AHEAD THE MIST SUDDENLY PARTS! A LONE FIGURE STANDS IN THE ROAD --- BECKONING!
THIS RUSSEL KENT GUY'S SURE TRYING HARD TO DUCK US--- HIDING UP IN THE MOUNTAINS LIKE THIS!
NOBODY DUCKS US! HEY.. SOME DUMB BUM IS HITCH HIKING UP THE MOUNTAIN!
YIPE! IT'S JORGEN!
WHA...? YOU CRAZY OR SOMETHIN'?
INTO THE SWIRLING MIST DASH THE KILLERS! THEIR HEADS REEL AS...
HELLO BOYS! COULD I HAVE A RIDE? I'M MIGHTY TIRED!
WE KILLED JORGEN--- BUT HE'S COME BACK TO LIFE! I MUST BE SNAPPING MY BOLTS!
GUNFIRE CRACKS THE MOUNTAIN AIR...
DON'T BE A SAP, RANDY! YA NERVES MAKE YA THINK IT'S JORGEN! BUT, SINCE WE SPILLED THE BEANS, HE'S GOTTA DIE TOO!
HE WON'T FALL!
BLAM BLAM BLAM

I GUESS YOU DON'T CARE TO GIVE ME A RIDE SO I'LL JUST TAKE THE SHORT CUT!
DROP, BLAST YOU, DROP!
ABRUPTLY A HEART CHILLING CRY ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES THROUGHOUT THE MOUNTAIN AS...
HE'S GONE! STEPPED RIGHT OFF THE MOUNTAIN! CAN'T YA HEAR HIM LAUGHING AT US?
SNAP OUT OF IT! THAT'S JUST THE WIND HOWLING THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS!
IT WAS JUST SOME NUT DRESSED UP LIKE A MUMMY! SO HE LOOKED LIKE JORGEN--SO WHAT? THE CRACKPOT GOT EXCITED AND FELL OFF THE CLIFF!
B-BUT THE VOICE SOUNDED LIKE JORGEN! I DON'T LIKE IT, TORPO!
FINALLY THE MACABRE RIDE ENDS! THE ASSASSINS MOVE IN ON THEIR VICTIM...
THAT'S THE CABIN! LET'S GET THIS JOB OVER WITH FAST!
RANDY, LOOK!
MORE OF EM OVER THERE! W-WHERE DO THEY COME FROM? WHO ARE THEY
C'MON YOU QUIVERING RABBIT! I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
THE KILLERS KNOCK ON THE CABIN DOOR! IT OPENS...
WE'RE FRIENDS OF RUSSEL KENT! HIS PAL SENT US! CAN YOU TELL US WHERE TO FIND HIM?
COME RIGHT IN, GENTLEMEN! I'M RUSSEL KENT!
DON'T GET FRISKY WITH ME, GRANDPA! I'M LOOKING FOR THE GUY IN THIS PICTURE--A YOUNG GUY, RUSSEL KENT!
OH YES, THE PICTURE, OF COURSE!
MORE OF 'EM! WHERE CAN THEY BE GOING?

WHERE IS HE, POP? THE GUY WITH THE BATTLESHIP TATTO ON HIS FOREARM?
SEE FOR YOURSELF, FRIEND!
IT IS HIM! HE'S GOT THE TATTOO!
HOT LEAD SCREAMS THROUGH THE FRAIL FORM IN THE CABIN! BUT THE MANS FACE REMAINS CALM-- DEATH IS A STRANGER TO HIM!
LIKE JORGEN! NOTHING HAPPENS! THE--BULLETS DON'T KILL HIM!
YOU GOTTA DIE! YOU, GOTTA!
I GET IT! HE'S IN DISGUISE! GIVE IT TO 'IM!
SURE! HE'S JUST DRESSED UP LIKE AN OLD MAN! HE TRIED TO FOOL US!
BLAM
SUDDENLY THE CLARION CALL OF DOOM RINGS OUT ACROSS THE MOUNTAIN TOP! MORTAL FEAR MOVES IN UPON THE WOULD-BE KILLERS!
HA HA HA! YOU HAVE REACHED THE SUMMIT OF YOUR LOATHSOME LIVES! ONLY JUSTICE WAITS TO BE SERVED NOW!
TORPO! IT'S REARDON AND MULDOON, THE TWO COPS WE KILLED IN PHILLY!
I-IT'S SOME KIND OF TRICK! WE BEEN FRAMED! MAKE A BREAK FOR IT! NOBODY PUTS THE SKIDS ON US, RANDY!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH EM? WHY DON'T THEY SAY SOMETHING?
BLAM
BLAM

L-LOOK! YAAAA!
KEEP GOING! KEEP GOING! IT'S A TRICK, I TELL YA!
FASTER, FASTER, RUN THE TWO HOODS! TERROR SNAPS AT THEIR HEELS...TEARS AT THEIR MINDS!
WHAT'S IT MEAN? WHAT'S IT MEAN, TORPO? HAVE WE GONE CRAZY OR SOMETHING?
SHUD UP! KEEP MOVING! WE GOTTA GET OUT! THAT DOOR...
THE GREAT OAKEN DOOR IS PUSHED OPEN AND--
YIPE!
HURRY, TORPO HURRY! T-THEY'RE COMING AFTER US!
AN OVER-WHELMING SIGHT GREETS THE KILLERS! A VOICE BOOMS OUT AND ONE GUNMAN CRINGES WHILE THE OTHER FIGHTS FOR FALSE COURAGE!
G-GOOD GOSH! WHAT A PLACE! WE... MUSTA STUMBLED INTO THE SECRET MOUNTAIN CULT OR SOMETHING!
N-NO, TORPO! IT'S WORSE THAN THAT! IT'S SOME-THING AWFUL! OUR BULLETS DON'T WORK... NOTHING WORKS!

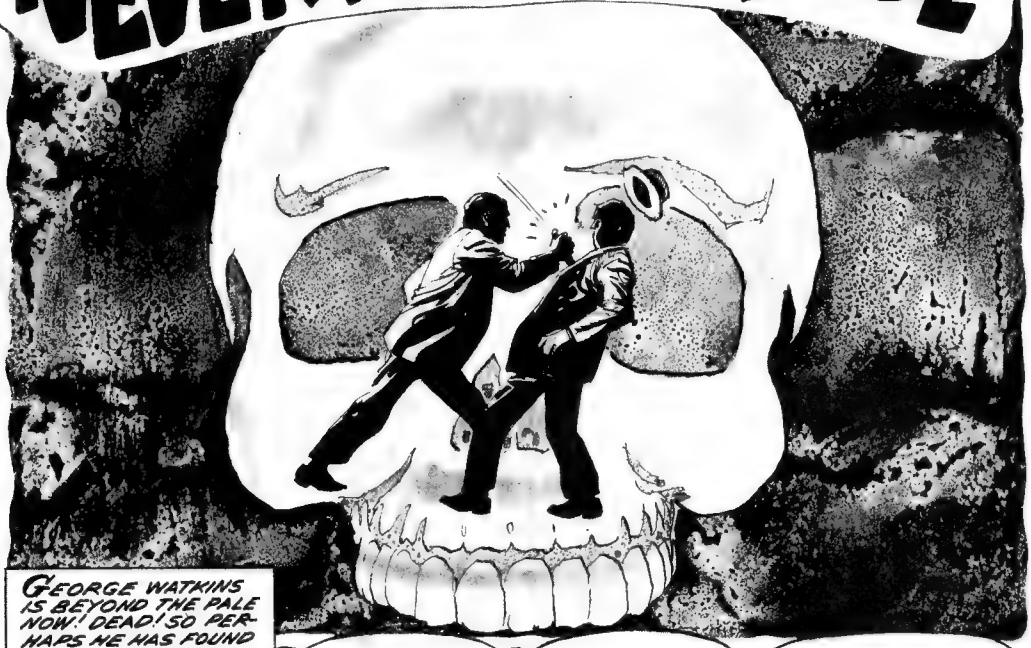
THEY MUSTA SWITCHED BLANK CARTRIDGES ON US! YEAH! SOMEBODY'S TRYING TO SCARE US TO DEATH! BUT I GOT FRESH BULLETS NOW! C'MON... WE'LL BREAK THROUGH 'EM!
(SOB-SOB) I-I CAN'T MOVE!
ALLRIGHT, YA SNIVELING COWARD! I'LL DO THE CAPER ALONE! THAT GUY IN THE FUNNY LOOKING JUDGES STAND... HE SEEMS TO BE THE BIG CHEESE!
NOBODY MAKE A MOVE! I GOT THIS ROD LEVELED DEAD ON YOUR BOSS!
TELL YOUR GANG TO BEAT IT, OR I'LL SHOOT YOUR HEAD OFF IN TEN SECONDS! ONE... TWO...
BUT STONY SILENCE REIGNS THROUGHOUT THE GREAT HALL AS THE FRANTIC KILLER SHOUTS! NONE WILL HEED HIS WORDS!
BLAM BLAM
SAY SOMETHING! MAKE YER MOVE! TALK!
GO BLAST AWAY WITH YER TOMMY GUNS! I'M TORPO GARDELLA! I CAN TAKE IT!
NO, TORPO, NO!
AWRIGHT! YOU ASKED FOR IT! NOW I'M GONNA WRITE FINISH TO YOUR MASQUERADE BOSS... RIGHT THROUGH THE HEAD!
IT'S NO GOOD, TORPO, NO GOOD!

BEAT IT YOU CRAWLING RAT! I AIN'T BEGGING FOR MERCY FROM NOBODY!
TASTE SOME REAL BULLETS! I'LL TAKE ONE OF YA WITH ME ANYWAY... H-HUH!
BLAM BLAM
NOTHING HAPPENS!
TORPO, DON'T YA GET IT? WE'RE DEAD! THAT CAR WRECK... WE THOUGHT WAS A LUCKY FREAK... IT KILLED US!
TORPO GARDELLA, YOU ARE FACING THE COURT OF JUSTICE BEYOND THE GRAVE! YOU STAND TRIAL FOR AN UN-WHOLESOME LIFE ON EARTH!
YA GOTTA HAVE PROOF EVEN IF I AM DEAD!
I SHALL BE PART OF THAT PROOF!
JUDGE ENRIGHT, THE GUY WE BUMPED OFF IN CHICAGO BACK IN 1948!
ONE BY ONE THE HOODED FIGURES REVEAL THEMSELVES! DEATH STARES BACK AT THE KILLERS!
YOU SHOT ME IN BOSTON! I AM JOHN POTTER!
YOU PUSHED ME FROM A BRIDGE IN BALTIMORE!
I AM ARTHUR PERRY YOU MURDERED ME IN CLEVELAND!

SURELY YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN ME, TOM JORGEN, THE GAMBLER YOU KILLED JUST TWENTY YEARS AGO IN 1954!
20 YEARS!
YES, THAT IS WHY YOU FOUND ME OLD! SINCE YOUR DEATH IN THE CAR CRASH 20 YEARS PASSED DURING YOUR JOURNEY UP THE MOUNTAIN! I DIED A NATURAL DEATH BEFORE THEN!
YOU HAVE HEARD AND SEEN THE EVIDENCE! DO YOU, TORPO, OR YOU, RANDY, HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY BEFORE SENTENCE IS PASSED?
STOP! YES! I HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY!
HE PLOTTED ALL THE CRIMES! I WAS AN INNOCENT DUPE IN HIS SCHEMES!
YOU DOUBLE CROSSING RAT! COP A PLEA ON ME, WILL YA!
I SHOULDA KILLED YA YEARS AGO!
YA YELLER RAT!
LIKE TWO BEASTS THE MASTERS OF EARTHLY MURDER THRASH ACROSS THE CHAMBER!
DOUBLE CROSSING HEEL!
WELCHING BUM!
THE END
AND THEN INTO THE ABYSS OF THEIR OWN EVIL THEY PLUNGE... DEMAGOGUES OF VIOLENT DEATH REAPING THE HARVEST OF THEIR CRIMES!

SOMETHING'S BOUND TO GO WRONG WHEN AN AMATEUR TOYS WITH THE POWERS OF THE MASTER. IN THIS CASE, THE MASTER WAS A SORCERER WHO LEFT HIS YOUNG AND FOOLISH ASSISTANT ALONE--- WITH THESE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS...

NEVER KILL A CORPSE



GEORGE WATKINS IS BEYOND THE PALE NOW! DEAD! SO PERHAPS HE HAS FOUND THE EXPLANATIONS, BUT ALL THAT WE, THE LIVING, KNOW IS WHAT HAPPENED HERE ON THIS SPHERE! BEGINNING WITH THE NIGHT THAT WALTER HANLY FOUND WATKINS HOVERING MIDWAY BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH!

BUT WHY? I CAN FEEL THEM CROWDING AROUND ME, WHISPERING! NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS! THE WORLD JEERS AT THE IDEA THAT WE CAN CONTACT THE DEAD, BUT YOU KNOW!
YES, I KNOW! I KNEW ALL MY LIFE! SPIRITUALISM IS MY LIFES WORK BUT EVEN SO, I STILL TREAD CAREFULLY!
BUT YOU DO CALL BACK THE DEAD! I'VE HEARD THEM SPEAK THROUGH YOU AT YOUR SEANCES!
YES, BUT IT'S FOR A PURPOSE, GEORGE! YOU'VE GOT TO UNDERSTAND! A MEDIUM IS A CONTROL! IT IS THE DEAD WHO DECIDE IF THEY RETURN, OR NOT!
WHEN THEY DO IT IS TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING ON OUR PLANE. CALLING THEM WITHOUT REASON IS DANGEROUS! YOU HAVE THE GIFT... BUT NO PURPOSE! WAIT! PROMISE ME YOU'LL WAIT!
GEORGE WATKINS PROMISED! AFTER ALL, HE LIVED IN WALTER HANLY'S HOUSE, SUPPORTED BY WALTER HANLY'S BOUNTY! HE LISTENED, HE LEARNED! BUT HE WAS YOUNG AND, THE YOUNG ARE AMBITIOUS... CURIOUS!
WATKINS WAS CURIOUS! FILLED WITH A POWER THAT EVEN HE DID NOT YET UNDERSTAND! AND THE NIGHT HAUNTED HIM WITH THINGS UNSEEN...
THIS ROOM, IT'S FILLED WITH THEM! ALL AROUND ME! THEY'RE HERE, WAITING TO BE CALLED! IF I ASK, THEY'LL COME!
NAMES! I MUST HAVE THE NAMES OF THOSE I CALL BACK! ANY NAMES! JOHN CLARK, DAVID BROWN. SOMEWHERE, SOMETIME, THERE WERE MEN WHO HAD THOSE NAMES!

DAVID BROWN... JOHN CLARK... COME! AM WAITING...
D-DOORBELL... THAT'S THE... DOORBELL!
AFTERWARDS, GEORGE WATKINS SPOKE OF THE HEAVINESS WHICH BEGAN TO PRESS HIM DOWN! THEN... NOTHING... A BLACK BOTTOM.. A DEEP DARK PIT... FROM WHICH BE EMERGED DAZED.. WEAK...
TOC TOC
YES, WHAT IS IT?
YOU SENT FOR ME! MY NAME IS DAVID BROWN!
GEORGE HAD NOT BEEN FULLY AWARE UNTIL THEN! BUT NOW, SUDDENLY, THE AIR WAS COLD! SUDDENLY, HE WAS AFRAID! SUDDENLY THE MAN AT THE DOOR STEPPED INTO THE LIGHT!
BROWN? WHAT SORT OF A JOKE IS THIS? T-THERE'S N-NO DAVID BROWN! I JUST MADE UP THAT NAME!
I AM DAVID BROWN!
Y-YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! GET OUT!
BUT... THIS IS WHERE I BELONG! WITH YOU! YOU CALLED ME... I CAME!
THEN GO BACK WHERE YOU CAME FROM! T-THIS IS A DREAM! IN A MINUTE I'LL WAKE UP AND YOU'LL BE GONE!

PERHAPS GEORGE WATKINS WAS ILL! PERHAPS HE JUST IMAGINED WHAT HAPPENED THAT EVENING!
GO AWAY... GO BACK... YOU AREN'T REAL... YOU CAN'T BE!
DEVIL! CORPSE WHATEVER YOU ARE! GO BACK! STAY AWAY...
DON'T COME NEAR ME!
NO! THE END WAS NOT IMAGINATION! THE KNIFE WAS THERE AND GEORGE WATKINS WAS AFRAID! HE WAS SITTING AT THE DESK SHIVERING WHEN WALTER HANLY RETURNED!
GEORGE! WHAT HAPPENED?
HAPPENED? I DON'T THINK I KNOW! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HE'S DEAD! BUT WHO IS HE?
NO ONE! A SHADOW! I CALLED HIM, HE SAID! SO HE CAME FROM THE DEAD! I KILLED A CORPSE! BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, DOES IT?
GEORGE TOLD HIS STORY! THEN FOR THE FIRST TIME HIS STORY WAS BELIEVED... FOR THE FIRST TIME...AND THE LAST!
BUT I CALLED TWO MEN, WHERE IS THE OTHER ONE, JOHN CLARK? MR. HANLY, YOU SAID THE DEAD RETURN FOR A PURPOSE! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I DON'T KNOW! I ONLY HOPE WE CAN MAKE THE POLICE BELIEVE YOUR STORY AS I DO! THAT'S ALL I CAN HOPE FOR!
HOPE? YES, THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE! BUT SOMETIMES, ONLY A FORLORN HOPE! FOR WATKINS THERE WAS NO HOPE. POLICEMEN DO NOT BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE!
I'LL SAY ONE THING FOR YOU, WATKINS, YOUR STORY IS DIFFERENT, ANYWAY! VERY INTERESTING!
INTERESTING? IT'S TRUE! EVERY WORD!

MR. HANLY, MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND THAT I'M NOT LYING!
HE WOULDN'T LISTEN, GEORGE! I WARNED YOU, THERE ARE THINGS NOT TO BE TAMPERED WITH!
I'LL BACK YOU UP IN COURT, GEORGE, BUT THEY WON'T LISTEN! I KNOW THEY WON'T!
THEY'LL LISTEN, HANLY! BUT I DOUBT IF YOU'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN AWAY THAT CORPSE ON THE FLOOR! FOR A SPOOK, HE LOOKS PRETTY SOLID TO ME!
WAIT... IF HE EXISTS, THEN JOHN CLARK MUST EXIST! FIND HIM! HE'LL BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN! YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM!
SURE! SURE! BUT, MEANWHILE IT'S MY DUTY TO WARN YOU THAT ANYTHING YOU SAY WILL BE USED AGAINST YOU! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
BUT THE POLICE NEVER FOUND JOHN CLARK! NO ONE BELIEVED IN SUCH A MAN! REALLY, HOW COULD THEY?
JOHN CLARK! COME NOW, MR. WATKINS, YOU'VE CARRIED THIS FAIRY TALE FAR ENOUGH!
I'M NOT A MURDERER! THE MAN I KILLED WAS ALREADY DEAD! YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM!
IF YOU'D JUST FIND JOHN CLARK, HE COULD EXPLAIN... ONLY HE!
EXPLAIN? THAT YOU CREATED HIM? THAT YOU BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD! REALLY, MR. WATKINS, YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THAT!
THE STATES ATTORNEY SMILED! BUT HE WAS NOT SMILING AT THE END! THERE IS NO HUMOR IN A DEATH SENTENCE!
TO BE HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL YOU ARE DEAD!
WATKINS STOOD ON THE SCAFFOLD SCREAMING FOR JOHN CLARK... BUT... NO ONE LISTENED!
NO! YOU FOOLS! FIND JOHN CLARK! FIND JOHN CLARK!

HE SCREAMED UNTIL THE TRAP DROPPED! THEN THE SILENCE WAS BROKEN BY WITNESSES AS THEY FILED OUT, SOBER AS MEN ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF DEATH!
IT'S OVER THEN, WARDEN?
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO CLAIM WATKINS BODY, HANLY, BUT YOU HAVE NO RIGHT HERE!
IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
I JUST FELT A SUDDEN CHILL, AS IF A COLD WIND HAD SPRUNG UP!
I'M SORRY IF I'VE BROKEN ANY RULES! I'LL WAIT IN YOUR OFFICE UNTIL I CAN CLAIM THE BODY!
WARDEN, WARDEN!
PORTER, I THOUGHT YOU WOULDN'T BE HERE TONIGHT!
SO THE GUARD TOLD ME! I UNDERSTOOD THAT THE EXECUTION WAS SET FOR ELEVEN! IT'S ONLY TEN NOW!
BUT THE GUARD TELLS ME THE EXECUTION IS ALREADY OVER!
IT IS... I UNDERSTOOD THAT YOU WERE ILL! THE OTHER MAN HAD ALL THE PROPER PAPERS. I HAD NO REASON TO DOUBT HIM!
OTHER MAN? WHAT OTHER MAN?
THE MAN WHO HANGED WATKINS! HIS PAPERS WERE IN ORDER! JOHN CLARK, EXECUTIONER! HE SUGGESTED THE CHANGE IN TIME!

JOHN CLARK! WARDEN, THAT'S THE NAME OF THE OTHER MAN GEORGE SAID HE CALLED BACK! DO YOU THINK HE COULD HAVE BEEN...
OF COURSE NOT! I THOUGHT IT A RATHER STRANGE COINCIDENCE, BUT THAT'S ALL!
THERE'S BEEN SOME SORT OF GRIM HOAX! BUT WHOEVER THAT OTHER HANGMAN WAS, HE'LL PAY FOR HIS JOKE! GUARD, GET TO THE GATE! NO ONE IS TO LEAVE! NO ONE!
BUT JOHN CLARK WAS NOT TO BE FOUND! AT LEAST NOT WITHIN THE PRISON WALLS!
WARDEN, LOOK THERE!
THAT'S HIM! IN THE OLD PRISON CEMETERY! HOW DID HE GET OUT? COME ON, WE'LL GET HIM!
ONLY THE WARDEN WAS WRONG! JOHN CLARK VANISHED AS IF THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH HE HAD BEEN ON EARTH NO LONGER EXISTED! WALTER HANLY FOUND THE ANSWER... PERHAPS!
JOHN CLARK
1858 1908
A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF THE STATE
STATE EXECUTIONER
1901-1908
PERHAPS THE ANSWER WAS WHAT WALTER HANLY HAD ONCE TOLD GEORGE WATKINS! IF THE DEAD RETURN, IT IS FOR A REASON! REMEMBER THAT!
THE END

TEAR HIM APART

YOUR NAME IS CHARLIE PATCH... AN ORDINARY GUY, BUT YOU HAD DREAMS OF SOMETHING *MORE!* THAT WAS YOUR TROUBLE...

THIS WAS YOU AT ONE TIME... WITH YOUR BEES, NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD!

COME OUT YOU RASCALS! YOU KNOW YOUR FRIEND DON'T YOU! HA HA!

AND HERE COMES YOUR EMPLOYER ... A WEALTHY, CHARMING AND JUST WOMAN...

HEY CHARLIE! H'YAR COMES MISS CAROL!

YEAH... OKAY JOE!

HELP! PUT ME DOWN! *AIIEEEE!!*

PLUS,-CAROL LEIGHTON WAS A *BEAUTIFUL WOMAN!*

HELLO, BOYS! HOW IS EVERYTHING GOING?

HOWDY, MISS CAROL! JUST FINE!!

AND REMEMBER HOW PROUD YOU WERE, CHARLIE, WHEN *SHE* TOOK AN INTEREST IN *YOU!*

...AND YOU, CHARLIE...ARE THE BEE-HIVES IN GOOD CONDITION?

...IN TOP CONDITION MA'AM! LOOK... I'LL SHOW YOU!

HEAR THEIR DEEP BUZZIN? THAT MEANS THEY'RE STRONG AND HEALTHY!

UH...YES! WELL I'M GLAD YOU'RE TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF THEM!

IN GENERAL, I FIND EVERYTHING WELL-TENDED! I'M VERY PLEASED, BOYS! YOU'LL ALL FIND A BONUS IN YOUR PAYCHECKS!

THAT'S SURE DECENT OF YOU, MISS CAROL!

THEN WHEN SHE SINGLED YOU OUT AGAIN, CHARLIE, YOUR HEART ALMOST STOPPED BEATING!

WELL... GOODBYE, BOYS! I'LL BE OVER NEXT SATURDAY! TAKE SPECIAL CARE OF THE BEES CHARLIE!

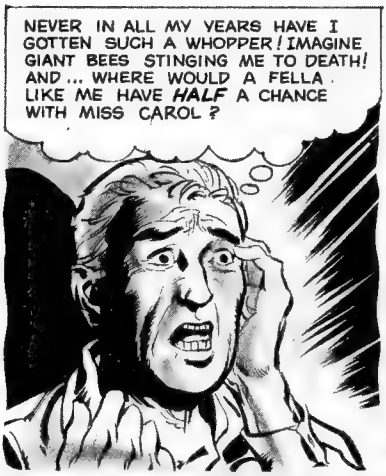
I WILL, MISS CAROL!

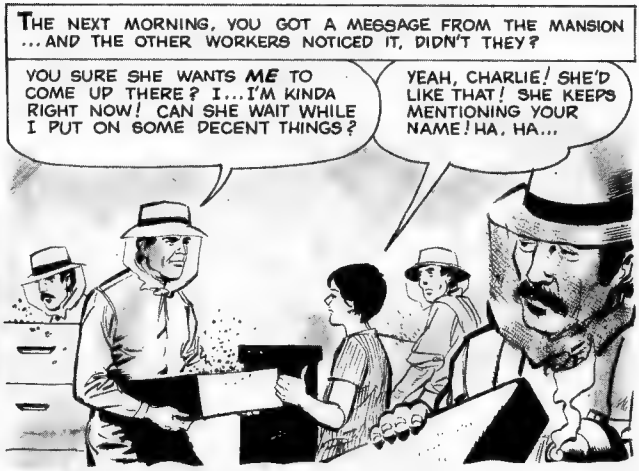
THERE GOES A FINE PERSON! ONLY WOMAN I'VE LIKED WORKING FOR! SHE TREATS ALL O'US FAIR AN' SQUARE!

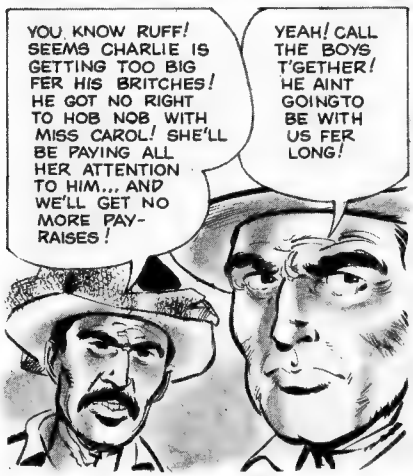
SHE SURE DOES!

THAT NIGHT YOU FELT PRETTY PECULIAR, HER BEAUTY HAD AFFECTED YOU...
SHE SURE IS NICE! OH... IF ONLY I WERE ATTRACTIVE TO HER! WE COULD MARRY...
WHAT WAS THAT? NOW HOW D'YA SUPPOSE ANY O'MY BEES GOT INSIDE MY SHACK?
BUZZZ-Z-Z-
THEN IT HAPPENED CHARLIE! YOUR BEES PAID YOU A VISIT!
THEY'RE GROWING! ...MUST BE MY IMAGINATION! IT'S GOTTA BE!
IT WAS CRAZY... FANTASTIC! BUT YOU WERE LIVING IT!
YOU WILL COME WITH US, CHARLIE PATCH!
G-GET AWAY FROM ME! N-NO! DON'T!
WE CANNOT DELAY AN INSTANT! WE MUST HURRY!
L-LET ME DOWN! HELP! HELP!! AAIIIEE!!!
THEY TOOK YOU THROUGH THE GATES OF THEIR CITY... A HIVE THAT WAS A METROPOLIS FOR GIANT BEES!
IT'S INCREDIBLE! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?

THEY LED YOU THROUGH MAZE AFTER MAZE... PASSAGEWAY AFTER PASSAGEWAY... UNTIL YOU STOOD BEFORE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CREATURE YOU HAD EVER SEEN!
WELCOME, CHARLIE PATCH! IN RETURN FOR YOUR LIFE-LONG SERVICES YOU SHALL BECOME MY MATE!
B-BUT... I...THIS IS INSANE! I'M ONLY A WORKER ...A...A DRONE YOU MIGHT SAY! AND YOU'RE A... QUEEN!
YOU DO US A GREAT INJUSTICE MAJESTY! YOU SINGLE OUT AN INSIGNIFICENT DRONE! BZZZZ!
SILENCE! I HAVE SPOKEN! PREPARE HIM FOR THE CORONATION!!
SO, IN A FEW MOMENTS, YOU WERE TAKEN TO A SPECIAL CHAMBER TO BE DRESSED FOR THE CEREMONY...
THESE WORKER BEES DON'T MIND ME AT ALL... BUT THE DRONES... -THEY'RE ANGRY!
BZZZZZZ
IT'S NOT RIGHT FOR YOU TO BE CHOSEN OVER US! WE WILL NOT PERMIT IT!
NO! IT... WASN'T MY DOING! AAAGHH!
YOU SHALL NOT LIVE! SURROUND HIM, BROTHERS! STIFLE HIM WITH OUR WINGS! STING HIM TO DEATH!
AAAIEEEEEE!!
ONE BY ONE, THE HUGE FURRY STINGERS PLUNGED INTO YOUR BODY, FILLING YOU WITH THEIR VENOM! THE DARKNESS CLOSED IN... YOU WERE FALLING... FALLING...
NO DON'T!! Y...A...AHHH! WH...WHA...? WHERE AM I? OHHH... I MUST HAVE BEEN DREAMING! BRRR...!







YES, CHARLIE... YOUR DREAM DID COME TRUE!

THE END

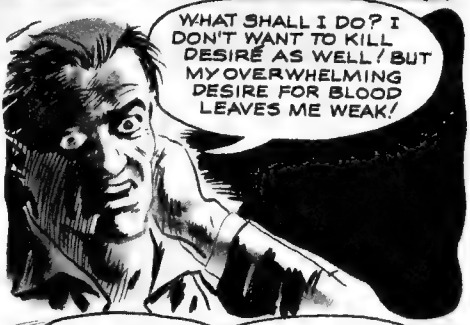
VAMPIRE
MY NAME IS WALTER FARNO. AS A WRITER OF SOME RENOWN, I AM ALSO AN INTENSE TRAVELER. COME WITH ME AS I TELL YOU MY STORY... I FIRST ARRIVED AT BELNOW IN THE PYRENEES DURING THE SPRING MONTHS. THE TOWN MAYOR GREETED ME WITH GUSTO...
OSCAR FRAGA
AH, MONSIEUR FARNO! WELCOME! WELCOME TO OUR SMALL VILLAGE. I HOPE YOU WILL FIND YOUR STAY AN ENJOYABLE ONE!
I'M SURE I WILL, MONSIEUR MAYOR!
HERE YOU! CAREFUL WITH THAT BOX!
IT IS YOURS, MONSIEUR!?
CRASH

UH... YES! YOU SEE SIR, I'M NOT ONLY HERE ON A VACATION, BUT ALSO TO... UH... COLLECT THINGS! I AM AN AVID COLLECTOR! THAT BOX HOLDS MY... COLLECTION!
SO! BIEN! BELNOW HAS EVERYTHING AT YOUR DISPOSAL! NOW FOLLOW ME, MONSIEUR!
BELNOW GREETED ME WITH OPEN ARMS! IT WASN'T OFTEN THAT A FAMOUS WRITER CAME TO VISIT THEM. BUT MY PURPOSE WAS NOT FOR A REST. YOU SEE, I HAD ONLY TOLD THE MAYOR HALF THE TRUTH. THAT NIGHT AT MY INN, I MET THE VILLAGERS...
YOUNG PAUL IS A HERCULES, IS HE NOT, MONSIEUR?
THAT HE IS, MONSIEUR!
THAT IS ENOUGH FOR TONIGHT, MY FRIENDS! I MUST GO BACK TO MY BLACKSMITH'S SHOP TO WORK! I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW!
GOOD NIGHT, PAUL!
OH, PAUL! MAY I WALK ALONG WITH YOU? I'D LIKE A BIT OF FRESH AIR!
COME ALONG, MONSIEUR FARNO! IT IS A PRIVELEGE!
WE WALKED ALONG TOGETHER... THEN WHEN THE FOREST BECAME DENSE... AND THE FULL MOON REACHED ITS PEAK... I STOPPED...
THEN... OF COURSE... I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF! THERE WAS NO USE DENYING THE INEVITABLE...
WHY DO YOU STOP, MONSIEUR? ARE YOU TIRED?
NO, PAUL, NOT TIRED! JUST HUNGRY!
MONSIEUR... Y... YOU'RE CH... CHANGING! LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I CAN'T, PAUL! TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I'M FAMISHED!

HE MADE A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO ELUDE ME, BUT OF COURSE I WAS SO MUCH STRONGER! EVEN THIS GIANT COULDN'T STOP A VAMPIRE!
WHAT WARM SWEET BLOOD, PAUL! IT HEARTENS ME GREATLY! HA! HA!
AND THE NEXT AFTERNOON, I MET MAYOR LAFARGE IN THE INN-SALOON. HE WAS VERY DISTURBED.
PAUL HAS BEEN KILLED, MONSIEUR FARNO! YOU WERE SEEN WITH HIM LAST...
BUT I LEFT HIM IMMEDIATELY! HOW COULD SUCH A YOUNG GIANT BE OVERPOWERED AND KILLED?
THAT ALSO PUZZLES ME! AND THAT IS WHY YOU HAVE BEEN ABSOLVED OF ALL GUILT! FORGIVE ME, BUT WE ARE SUSPICIOUS OF EVERYONE! OH, I WANT YOU TO MEET MY DAUGHTER DESIRÉ!
CHARMED!
CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, VAMPIRES ARE LIKE ORDINARY PEOPLE... THAT IS TO SAY, THEY CAN GO OUT DURING THE DAYTIME. BUT, OF COURSE, THEY DO HAVE ABNORMAL APPETITES, AND MINE WAS GROWING AGAIN!
IT IS A HORRIBLE THING, IS IT NOT, MONSIEUR? I KNEW PAUL VERY WELL! WHO WOULD DO SUCH A THING? HIS NECK WAS... IT WAS AWFUL!
PLEASE DON'T LET IT MAKE YOU OVERWROUGHT, DESIRÉ! A PRETTY GIRL LIKE YOU NEEDS LAUGHTER AND GAIETY!
IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED I CULTIVATED THIS WONDERFUL GIRL'S FRIENDSHIP. PICNICS, DAYS ON THE BEACH, DANCING!
PARDON ME, OLD MAN! CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE THE ROAD TO BELNOW IS? I SEEM TO BE LOST!
IT IS NOT FAR FROM HERE! YOU JUST...

I WENT HOME, MY GAIETY BUBBLING OVER! THE NEXT MORNING OVER THE BREAKFAST TABLE...

HER GRANDFATHER? NO! IT COULD NOT BE I EXCLAIMED TO MYSELF, BUT THE FACTS WERE NOT TO BE DENIED! AND DESIRÉ COULD BE NEXT!



NEVERTHELESS I HAD TO KEEP UP A PRETENSE. I ORGANIZED A SEARCH PARTY TO CAPTURE THE "MURDERER" AND THE POOR SIMPLE PEASANTS FELL ALONG WITH MY PLANS...

MOMENTS LATER...
LOOK THERE, MONSIEUR LE MAYOR, QUICKLY!
EH? WHERE?
OH...I'M AFRAID YOU MISSED HIM! HE WAS A LITTLE TOO FAST FOR YOU!
NONSENSE! I THINK I SEE SOMETHING...
AIEEEEEEEEEEEE!
THE ONLY THING YOU SAW WAS YOUR IMAGINATION! NOW YOU SHALL REALLY SEE HIM! HA! HA!
I ATTENDED TO MY BUSINESS QUICKLY. THEN WITHOUT WASTING ANOTHER MOMENT, I TORE MY CLOTHES, SLASHED MY FACE, ...AND RAN BACK TOWARD THE MAIN BODY!
HELP! HELP! THE MAYOR! HE'S BEEN ATTACKED BY...BY A VAMPIRE! I BARELY ESCAPED!
IT'S MONSIEUR FARNO! SACRE BLEU! WE MUST FIND THE CREATURE!
OH- WALTER- WALTER MY DARLING! YOU... YOU ARE ALIVE! I HEARD THE MENS SHOUTS! FATHER IS... IS... ?
YES, DEAR! THIS IS A HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE! WE MUST LEAVE THIS ACCURSED PLACE!
I SHOULD HAVE EXULTED IN MY CUNNING, BUT I WAS TORN BY THE BITTER ANGUISH OF MY EVIL! DESIRE NOW MEANT MORE TO ME THAN LIFE ITSELF! BUT SHE WAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT OF THAT PRECIOUS BLOOD!
I-I WOULD RATHER KILL MYSELF FIRST! I'LL FIND ANOTHER VICTIM! YES,... THAT'S IT!

THAT NIGHT I STALKED A PRETTY YOUNG THING WHO LIVED NEAR THE VILLAGE...TO BLOT OUT THE TEMPTATION OF KILLING DESIRÉ!
DON'T BE ALARMED, MY CHILD! IT WILL HURT BUT A MOMENT!
BUT THAT NIGHT I WAS CARELESS!
DID HE SEE ME? I WONDER!
WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
BEG PARDON, SIR! BUT DESIRÉ LAFARGE IS DOWNSTAIRS. SHE GAVE ME THIS NOTE!
YOU MAY LEAVE! THANK YOU!
I SAW THE SHEER FRIGHT IN THE MORTALS EYES! THEN I KNEW I HAD BEEN FOUND OUT! I OPENED DESIRÉ'S NOTE!
Y-YES!
"DARLING, TAKE ME AWAY...I LOVE YOU! WE CAN BE MARRIED AND BE TOGETHER ALWAYS! I WAIT FOR YOUR ANSWER. DESIRE"
SWEET DESIRÉ! I SHALL NEVER HARM YOU!
THEN I KNEW WHAT TO DO! THE INN-PORTER WOULD BE SUMMONING HIS FELLOW BUMPKINS...AND MY SWEETHEART WAS DOWN BELOW SO I RUSHED TO THE WINDOW IMMEDIATELY.
DESIRÉ...COME UP QUICKLY! I'VE CAUGHT THE VAMPIRE! DO EXACTLY AS I SAY. TAKE A LARGE WOODEN STAKE FROM THE STOVE. YOU MUST KILL IT AS IT LIES IN ITS COFFIN!
Y-YES...
I EXERTED EVERY OUNCE OF MY HYPNOTIC POWER, FOR SHE WOULD NEVER DO IT OF HER OWN FREE WILL!..REALIZING WHO AND WHAT I WAS BEFORE SHE COULD KILL ME. I HEARD THE DOOR OPEN...
QUICKLY! YOU MUST PLUNGE IT DOWN AS HARD AS YOU CAN!
YES...
DESIRÉ, I SHALL LOVE YOU ALWAYS!
SOMEDAY...SHE WILL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY...SHE WILL PITY ME!
THE END

THE FROZEN COLOSSUS

THE TWO NOW EAGERLY TORE OPEN THE CONTAINER LID! THIS WAS THE MOMENT WHEN THEY WOULD KNOW IF THEIR EXPLORATION HAD BEEN VALID...
WELL--WHAT DOES IT SAY? I STILL THINK WE'RE ON A WILD GOOSE-CHASE!
NO, JOHN--YOU'RE WRONG! CENTER BASE HAS CHECKED OUR MAGNETIC RAY REPORTS! SUCCESS!
PAUL NORDEN LED HIS YOUNGER COLLEAGUE INTO THEIR TENT FOR A FURTHER EXAMINATION OF THE REPORT, HIS FACE AGLOW WITH THE FANATIC ZEAL OF A TRUE SCIENTIST...
I TOLD YOU MY THEORY WAS CORRECT! THERE ARE DEFINITE MAGNETIC IMPULSES COMING FROM AN AREA SOME 50 MILES FROM HERE! AIR OBSERVATION SPOTTED IT AS MOUNTAIN CHAIN!
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT A PREHISTORIC MAN IS TO BE FOUND HERE!
ON THE CONTRARY, THE RADIATION CHECK ON THE FOSSIL MAN IN ALASKA HAS--CONVINCED ME THAT IT COULD COME FROM THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!
BUT THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT A NEW BRANCH PRE-HISTORIC MAN IS TO BE FOUND HERE! THE FACTS DON'T JIVE!!
ON THE CONTRARY, THEY DO! THE FOSSIL THAT WAS FOUND CONVINCED ME THAT IT CAME FROM THIS PART OF THE COUNTRY!
BUT "GETTING THERE" WAS NOT SO EASY TO DO! NUMBING COLD, SWEEPING RAIN, AND THE FREEZING AIR SURROUNDED THEM--
HERE WE ARE--GASP--I NEVER THOUGHT WE'D MAKE IT!
GASP--GASP--LOOK AT THAT MAJESTIC CAVERN! IT'S HERE THAT WE'LL FIND OUR SPECIMEN, JOHN!
AND FINALLY THEY ARRIVED...
AN HOUR LATER...
CAREFUL, PAUL--ONE MIS-STEP AND WE'LL FALL TO OUR DEATHS BELOW!

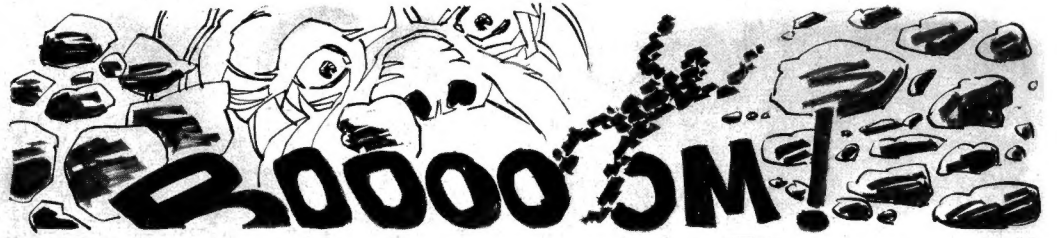
MOMENTS AFTERWARDS, THEY HAD ENTERED A CAVERN FILLED WITH ASTONISHING ARTIFACTS OF A BYGONE AGE NEVER DISCOVERED...
GREAT SCOTT!
WE WERE RIGHT, JOHN! THIS DISCOVERY WILL ASTOUND THE WORLD!
COME HERE! OUR COUNTER IS GOING CRAZY!
WHO WERE THESE PEOPLE, PAUL? THESE ARTIFACTS ARE ON A TECHNOLOGICAL LEVEL AS OUR OWN!
HOURS LATER...
HERE'S ANOTHER CAVE OPENING THERE! PERHAPS WE CAN EXPLORE THIS FABULOUS PLACE FURTHER!
I'M SURE THIS IS WHERE OUR SPECIMEN CAME FROM, JOHN... YET-- I CAN'T FIND A TRACE! THERE'S NOTHING HERE-- NOTHING!
PATIENCE... MAYBE IN THERE IS OUR ANSWER! STRANGE-- BUT THIS OPENING IS UNLIKE ALL THESE OTHERS...
DO YOU HEAR THAT? THE ROOF'S GIVING OVERHEAD! PAUL-- GOOD LORD! WE'RE IN THE MOUTH OF A--A GIANT!
GET BACK! QUICKLY!
PAUL--LET'S NOT GO IN! I-I HAVE A WEIRD PREMONITION SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE!
NONESENSE! WHAT COULD POSSIBLY HAPPEN?
RRRRR

CRASH

NOW, IN A VOICE THAT RESEMBLED THUNDER, THE THING--OR WHATEVER IT WAS, ISSUED FORTH A BLAST THAT GRIPPED THE MINDS OF THE TERRIFIED MORTALS...
WHO DARES VIOLATE MY REPOSE? I HAVE AWOKEN--IT IS YOU MANLINGS!
PAUL--DO YOU HEAR?

YES! THE SPEECH IS ARCHAIC, BUT RECOGNIZABLE! THIS IS THE MONSTER OUR BOOKS ON MYTHOLOGY SPOKE ABOUT! THIS IS THE "GIANT THAT WALKED THE EARTH" IN THE TIME OF THE GODS!

NO, PAUL! DON'T PAUL!
GET OUT OF HERE, JOHN--AND GOODBYE!


BOOOOOM!

HOW JOHN HARDING ESCAPED, HE NEVER KNEW! DAYS OF INSANITY CONTROLLED HIM...BUT SOMEHOW, HE WAS GOING BACK ON THE LONG, LONG TRAIL...

ONE MONTH LATER, THEY FOUND HIM HALF-STARVED AND OUT OF HIS MIND! HE KEPT REPEATING OVER AND OVER AGAIN ONE FACT THAT BROUGHT PITY TO THOSE WHO HELD HIM...
THE GIANT HAD TWO HORNS AND A POINTED TAIL... TWO HORNS--PAUL KILLED THE DEVIL--HA, HA... AHA, HA, HA, HA!

THE END